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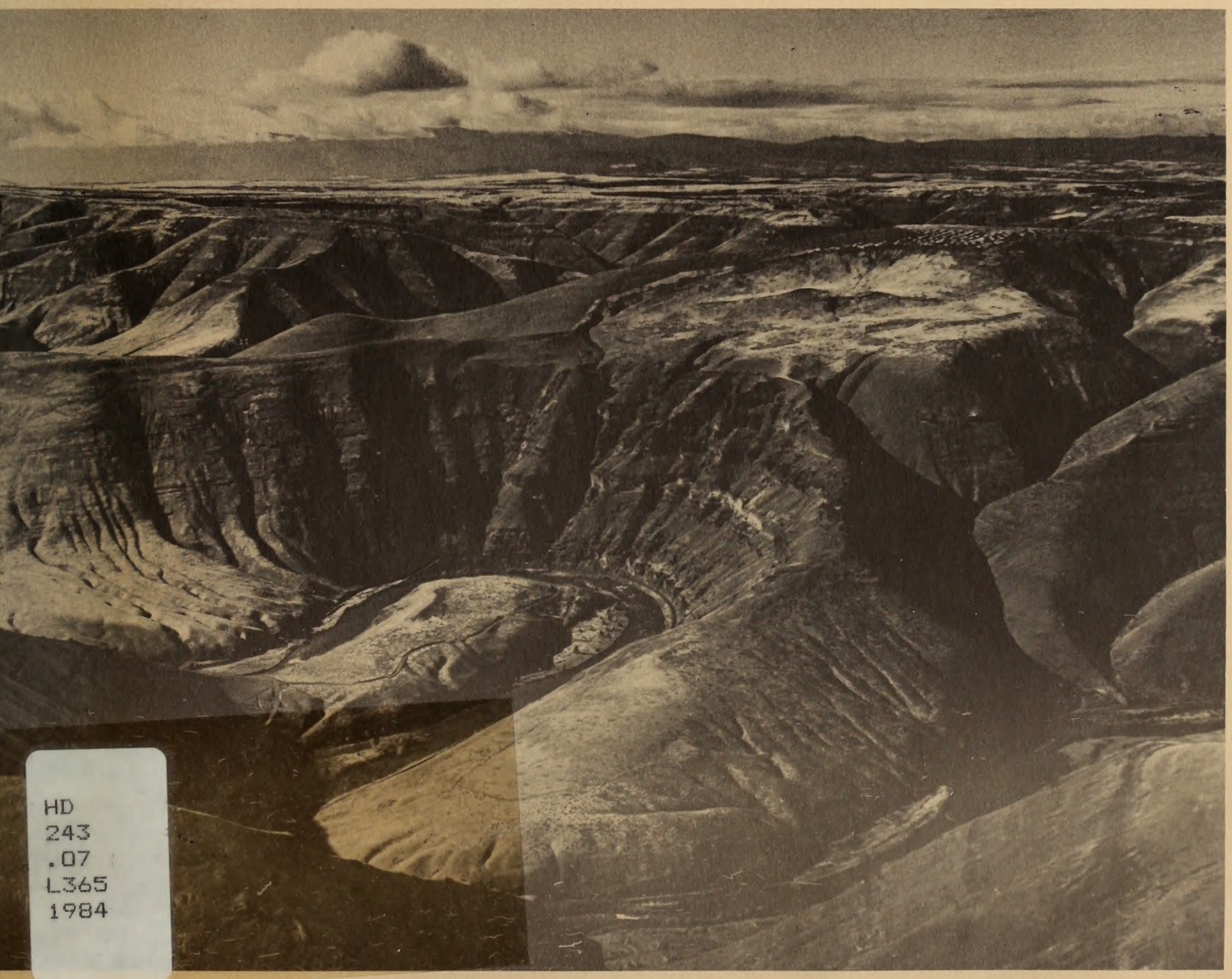
Two Rivers Resource Management Plan

Proposed Land Use Alternatives



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Two Rivers Resource Management Plan

Proposed Land Use Alternatives

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PRINEVILLE DISTRICT OFFICE
P.O. Box 550 (185 E. 4th Street)
Prineville, Oregon 97754

August 31, 1984

Dear Public Land User:

We are presently evaluating options for managing the public lands in the Two Rivers Planning Area, located in the north half of the Prineville District. Each of these options, or alternatives, prescribes resource management direction for the public lands for the next ten to fifteen years. Each alternative relates to issues that many of you helped to identify. The alternatives will be analyzed in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as part of the planning process.

We have developed four resource alternatives, each with a different overall management emphasis. In the Continue Existing Management Alternative, the allocation of lands and resources would remain essentially unchanged from the present. The Commodity Production Alternative emphasizes consumptive uses such as livestock production, timber harvest, mineral development, and motorized recreation. Natural value protection or enhancement while still accommodating commodity production is emphasized in a third alternative, through the protection of riparian areas, wildlife habitat, scenic quality and watershed values. The fourth alternative emphasizes the protection and enhancement of natural values.

The end product will be a Resource Management Plan (RMP) or land use plan for the public lands. The RMP will establish resource management goals and objectives, allowable land uses and levels of resource production, the need for more detailed and site specific activity plans, land areas for multiple use, and lands for transfer from public ownership.

The wilderness study process has been ongoing since 1979 and has progressed beyond the scope of this RMP. Recommendations on the suitability of these lands for wilderness designation will be analyzed in a draft statewide EIS which will be released for public review and comment at a later date. All aspects of interim management of the four wilderness study areas as well as possible designation of these areas as wilderness will be recognized in the land use decisions made in the Two Rivers Resource Management Plan. However, as you work with us during the next 18 months, remember that while other resource uses within wilderness study areas will be analyzed in this RMP/EIS, the issue of wilderness designation will not be considered.

Recreation use of the Lower Deschutes River, a state scenic waterway, has been studied by various agencies. Decisions have been made and plans are in place for recreation management of this 100 mile river corridor downstream from Warm Springs. Management challenges can only be resolved by continuation of the ongoing coordination of activities between the BLM, Oregon State Parks, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon State Marine Board, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation, private landowners and Jefferson, Sherman and Wasco Counties. Consequently, recreation river use will not be considered in this RMP/EIS. However, ongoing management on the Deschutes River will be recognized in decisions regarding other resources that may also affect the quality or quantity of recreation river use, e.g. riparian management or access. No decisions will be made in this RMP/EIS that would be contrary to the intent of the interagency management philosophy already in place.

The lower 147 miles of the John Day River, also a state scenic waterway, will require a specific plan for managing recreational use. Issues such as use levels, recreation facilities, and trespass are very

specific concerns and are beyond the scope of a more general resource allocation plan such as an RMP. Recreation planning on the John Day River also needs to be done jointly with the other managing agencies and the public. Any decisions made regarding recreational use of the Lower John Day River will be fully integrated with the intent and purpose of this RMP/EIS.

The issues and alternatives discussed in this booklet were developed from public comment on the preliminary issues and alternatives brochure, contacts with local governments, known user or interest groups and staff discussions. If, after reviewing this booklet you have any further comments, we would like to receive them by October 9, 1984. Development of a preferred alternative will be based on public comments, as well as interagency and staff recommendations. Additional suggestions regarding the Two Rivers RMP/EIS process should center around the following points:

1. Issues presented or additional relevant issues which should be considered in the EIS;
2. Your comments or suggestions on the alternatives presented;
3. Your preference for the preferred alternative;
4. Criteria you feel should be used in the development of a preferred alternative.

After considering all comments, we will prepare final resource management alternatives. Then, we will estimate the effects of implementing each of the alternatives, develop a preferred alternative and release a draft RMP/EIS in the spring of 1985.

Public comment and low turnout at the public meetings held in Condon and Grass Valley indicate that scoping meetings prior to the completion of the draft RMP/EIS would not be necessary. If a need for meetings is identified as a result of this mailing, they will be scheduled. However, no public meetings at this stage of the process are anticipated.

Thanks again for your past help with this planning effort. We look forward to your continuing interest and participation.

Sincerely yours,

Gerald E. Magnuson
District Manager

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The Planning Area

This Resource Management Plan/Environmental Statement (RMP/EIS) will analyze the impacts associated with the mangement of 294,010 acres of public land and 382,873 acres of subsurface mineral estate where the Bureau of Land Management is the administering agency. This land is scattered throughout six counties in north central Oregon as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Public Land Acreage Two Rivers Planning Area.

County	Public Land Administered by BLM	Private Surface Federal Subsurface Mineral Estate	Total Acreage of County
Gilliam	45,244	53,825	1,312,000
Hood River	376	96	343,000
Jefferson	37,916	79,570	1,149,000
Sherman	52,687	24,357	534,000
Wasco	62,803	103,901	1,531,000
Wheeler	94,984	121,124	1,092,000
Total Acreage	**294,010**	**382,873**	**5,961,000**

The planning area is bounded by the Cascade Mountain Range to the west, the Columbia River to the north, Crook and Deschutes Counties to the south and Morrow and Grant Counties to the east (Maps 1 and 2).

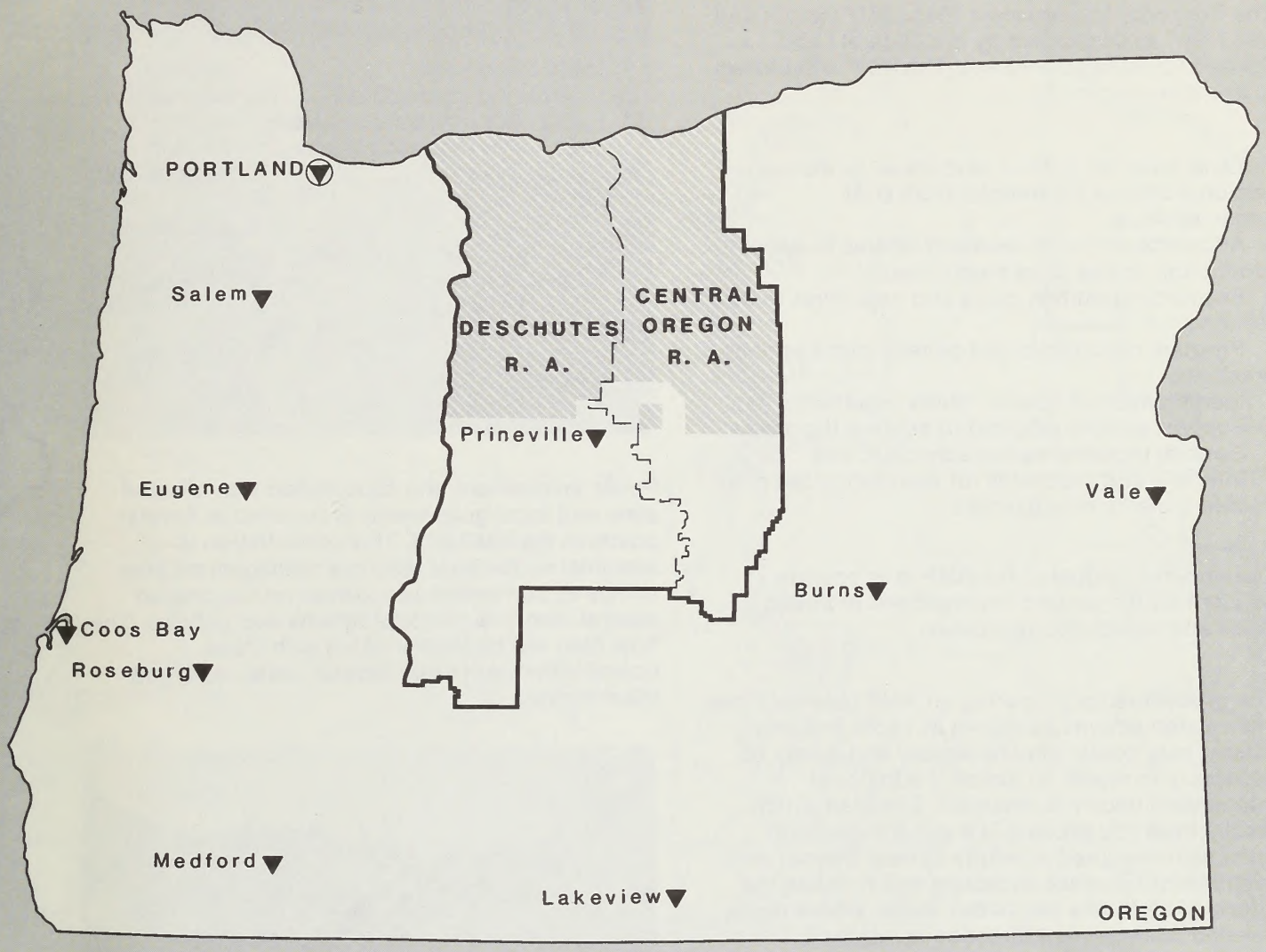
The Mt. Hood, Deschutes, Ochoco and Umatilla National Forests and the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument, administered by the National Park Service, are the other major federal lands within the planning area. The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation is also within the planning area.

Inclusion of Big Summit Prairie in the Two Rivers Planning Area

There are approximately 6,000 acres of public land in Big Summit Prairie located in Crook County. These public lands are an "island" within the Ochoco National Forest as shown on Map 2. Transfer of this area to the U.S. Forest Service has been under consideration for several years. It appears that the public lands in Big Summit Prairie will continue to be administered by BLM for some period of time. Consequently, management of this area will be analyzed through the RMP/EIS process. Specific resource data for Big Summit Prairie has not yet been compiled. The four management alternatives do not yet define specific

options for Big Summit Prairie, however, the same goals and objectives for the alternatives to be analyzed in the rest of the Two Rivers Planning Area will also apply to the Big Summit Prairie. The draft environmental impact statement will display these options.

If you think there are alternative methods, or specific issues relating to the management of the public lands in this area, we would appreciate receiving your suggestions and comments by October 9, 1984.



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- BLM State Office
- BLM District Office
- District Boundary
- Resource Area Boundary
- Two Rivers Resource Management Plan/EIS Area

MAP 1
General Location

The Resource Management Planning Process

The Resource Management Plan (RMP) is a "Land Use Plan" as prescribed by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. The RMP establishes in a written document:

- Land areas for limited, restrictive, or exclusive resource uses or for transfer from BLM administration;
- Allowable resource uses and related levels of production or use to be maintained;
- Resource condition goals and objectives to be reached;
- Program constraints and general management practices;
- Identification of specific plans required;
- Support actions required to achieve the above;
- General implementation schedule; and
- Intervals and standards for monitoring the plan to determine its effectiveness.

The underlying goal of the RMP is to provide efficient on the ground management of public lands and associated resources.

The procedure for preparing an RMP involves nine interrelated actions as shown in Table 2. Some actions may occur simultaneously and it may be necessary to repeat an action if additional information becomes available. The plan which results from this process is a general decision document designed primarily to help District and Area Managers make decisions and to guide the efforts of staff on a day to day basis. Where more detailed management direction is required, specific activity plans will be prepared after the RMP is completed.

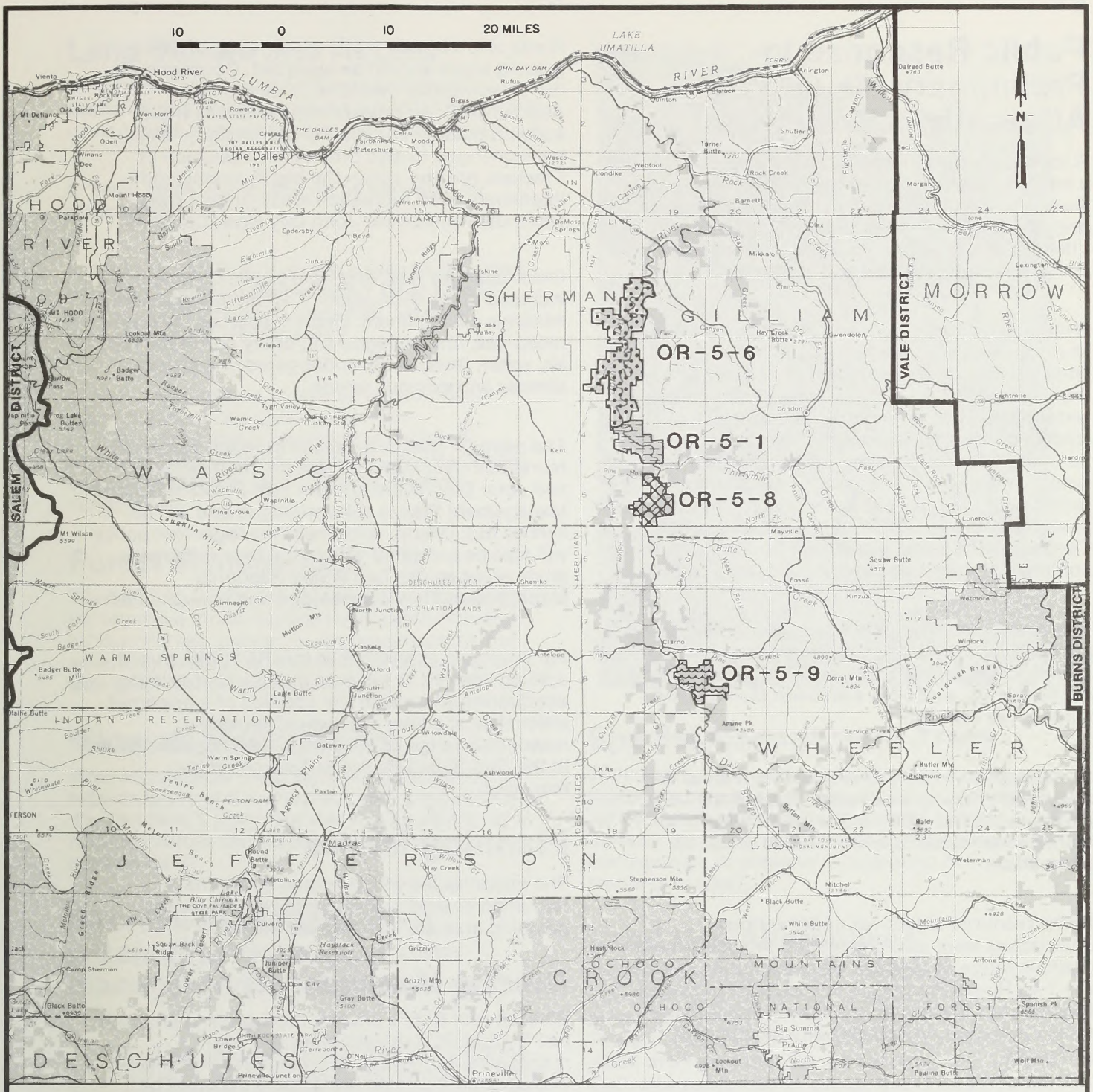
The Two Rivers RMP was initiated in the spring of 1984, with public involvement in the identification of preliminary planning issues and alternatives. The final Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement is to be completed by September 1985. A record of decision and rangeland program summary will be published by the spring of 1986.

The first four (4) steps of the RMP process have been completed and resource management alternatives have been developed. Following review of the alternatives, they will be finalized and the process will proceed through the final steps to the selection of the Resource Management Plan. After selection of the plan it will be implemented, monitored and evaluated on a continuing basis to assure that the major land management issues are being dealt with and resolved.

Table 2. Resource Management Planning Process

1. Identification of Issues	Completed
2. Development of Planning Criteria	Completed
3. Inventory Data and Information Collection	Completed
4. Analysis of the Management Situation.	Completed
5. Formulation of Alternatives	September 1984
6. Estimation of Effects	October 1984 thru March 1985
7. Selection of a Preferred Alternative	
a. Draft RMP/EIS	April 1985
b. Final RMP/EIS	September 1985
8. Selection of the Resource Management Plan	Spring 1986
9. Monitoring and Evaluation	Continuing

Public involvement and consultation with affected state and local goverments is required at several points in the RMP/EIS. This consultation is essential so the final resource management plan will be as consistent as possible with approved natural resource plans, programs and policies. The final plan will be implemented with close coordination with other federal, state, local and tribal leaders.



- BLM Land
- U. S. Forest Service
- Thirtymile WSA
- Lower John Day WSA
- North Pole Ridge WSA
- Spring Basin WSA

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MAP 2
Planning Area and Land Status

Public Response to Preliminary Issues and Alternatives Brochure

A total of 42 written responses were received from a mailing of 528 copies of the Two Rivers Resource Management Plan Preliminary Issues and Alternatives Brochure. A total of 11 people attended the two public meetings in Condon and Grass Valley on May 9th and 10th, 1984.

Public comments on preliminary issues were used in several ways. As a result of public comment, the emphasis on the management of riparian areas was changed to protect soil, maintain or enhance water quality and quantity as well as fisheries and wildlife habitat. Water quality was determined to be a significant issue, however, it was also determined that water quality and quantity on public lands would be directly affected by any changes in the condition of riparian vegetation. Consequently, water quality will be dealt with in conjunction with management of riparian areas.

The resolution of unauthorized agricultural use of public lands and the conditions under which public lands would be retained, transferred, exchanged or sold have also been clarified and made more specific.

Consideration of special management areas was also determined to be an issue that should be addressed in this RMP. A discussion of special management areas is now included under all alternatives.

Some resource objectives under various alternatives were also changed to provide a more realistic range of possible ways the public lands in the Two Rivers Planning Area could be managed. Examples of these changes can be found in the forest, minerals, and recreation management programs.

It was found that the objective for riparian management under Alternative A (emphasize commodity production and enhancement of economic benefits) was not consistent with the intent of that alternative. Consequently, the objective was modified to manage these areas at 60 percent of potential rather than attempt to achieve or maintain a good or excellent channel stability rating.

It was also decided that a wider range of livestock grazing levels should be analyzed. Consequently, the objectives for livestock grazing under Alternative C (emphasize natural values while accommodating commodity production) have been changed to also provide for exclusion of livestock grazing within the highly scenic and intensively used recreation areas of the Lower Deschutes and Lower John Day River Canyons.

Other changes resulting from public comment are included in the discussion of forest management, minerals management, visual resources, cultural resources, fire management, utility corridors, soil, air, water, threatened, endangered or sensitive species and noxious weeds.

The need for integrated plans between wilderness, recreation river management on the Deschutes and John Day Rivers and the Two Rivers Resource Management Plan is acknowledged and will be carried out. Interim wilderness management policy will also be complied with in the four wilderness study areas as the Two Rivers Resource Management Plan is developed and implemented.

For purposes of analysis in this RMP/EIS, public opinion seemed to indicate that the four existing alternatives along with the addition of a preferred alternative at a later date would provide a reasonable range of possible ways the public lands in the Two Rivers Planning Area could be managed.

Planning Issues

The major issues which helped direct the formation of land use plan alternatives for the planning area are summarized below:

Grazing Management

What should BLM's grazing management program be? Should BLM maintain the existing management program, or provide more intensive management? Should the grazing program be eliminated in part or on whole areas where it conflicts with other resource uses?

Riparian Management

What actions are appropriate to ensure riparian areas are properly managed to protect and improve them for their primary purposes of soil and water protection and fish and wildlife habitat?

Wildlife Management

What management practices or habitat improvement projects are appropriate to provide a diverse range of habitats for wildlife?

Land Tenure and Access

1. Is there a need to consolidate additional scattered public land by exchange into high public value areas? If so, what areas are most important.?

2. What lands, if any, should be identified for disposal by sale?

3. What should BLM's access policy be in regard to public lands and user groups? What type of access, if any, should be acquired, for what purposes and to which areas?

4. BLM will continue to resolve unauthorized agricultural use of public lands. What considerations should be made in deciding whether to sell the land, authorize the use (lease), or allow the land to revert back to a natural condition?

Forest Management

What should BLM's forest management program be: intensive forest management; sanitation and salvage harvest (custodial management); timber sales only in areas where no significant conflicts with other resource uses exist?

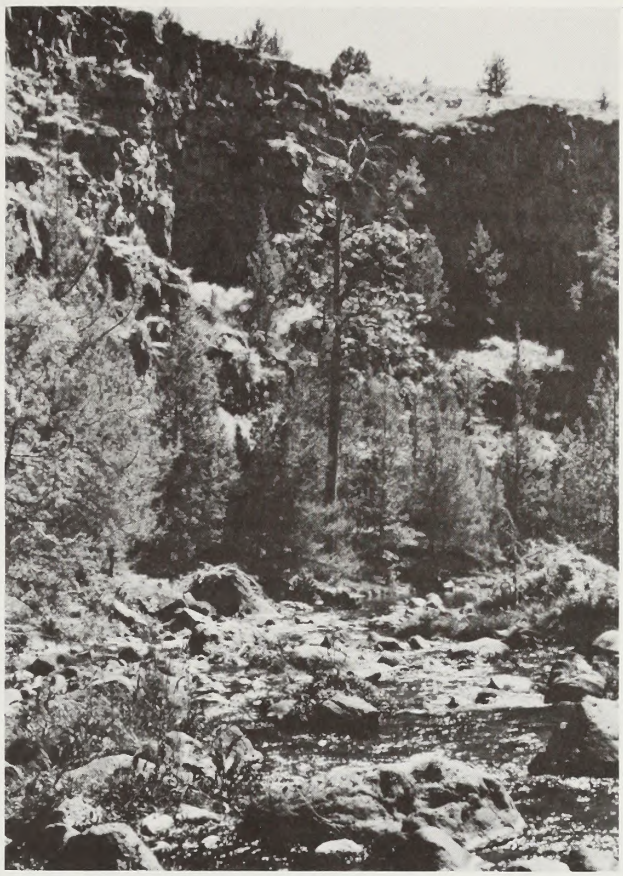
Minerals Management

What should BLM's management program be in regards to mineral exploration and development in the Two Rivers area? Are there areas where other resource values should preclude mineral development?

Recreation Management (excluding recreation river management and wilderness)

1. Should the use of motorized vehicles traveling off designated roads across public lands be limited to certain areas or times of the year to prevent resource damage? Should ORV use on certain areas be prohibited altogether?

2. Should some deposits of semi-precious stones as well as placer gold be managed for recreational use?



Special Management Areas

Which areas, if any, are suitable for formal designation as areas of critical environmental concern, research natural areas, etc.? What remaining areas, if any, should receive special management to preserve outstanding or unique resource values?

Land Use Alternatives

The purpose of several land use alternatives is to give BLM managers a tool in developing a preferred alternative. The alternatives displayed in Table 3 serve as an information matrix showing the result of a range of resource management options. Each alternative has an overall goal and a number of objectives which describe management direction for each of the resources where issues have been identified.

Table 3. Goals and Objectives of Land Use Alternatives

Alternative A

Goal: Emphasize Commodity Production and Enhancement of Economic Benefits

Objectives:

1. Forage production and allocation for livestock use would be increased as a result of an intensive rangeland management program.

2. Riparian areas would be managed for their primary purpose of soil and water protection and fish and wildlife habitat. Objectives would be to manage these areas at 60 percent of potential. Livestock grazing would be managed or excluded to achieve this objective.

3. Existing habitat management plans would be continued. Forage needs for deer and elk in the long term, as recommended by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife would be met.

4. Public lands with high public values (wildlife, recreation, riparian, watershed) would be retained in public ownership or exchanged for other lands with higher public value. Other public lands would be considered for sale if they are: (1) difficult and uneconomic to manage and are not needed by another agency; (2) no longer needed for the specific purpose for which they were acquired or for any other federal purpose; (3) provide greater benefits to the public in private ownership.

Agricultural use of public land would be authorized through permit, lease or sale.

Legal public access to public lands to maximize public use, would be acquired.

5. Intensively manage commercial forest lands with minimal constraints for protection of other resources.

6. The public lands would remain open for the exploration and development of mineral resources, rights-of-way and public purposes. The area of no surface occupancy restriction would be reduced to include the l/2 mile wide state scenic waterways corridor in the Deschutes and John Day Canyons.

7. The public lands, except areas being significantly damaged by ORV use would be designated as open to off road vehicle use.

Some areas having moderate to high potential for placer gold, or semi-precious stones would be managed for recreational mining.

8. Existing restrictions in formally designated special management areas such as the Deschutes and John Day Scenic Waterways would be continued. Remaining areas would be managed more intensively for timber, grazing and mineral development. Areas of critical environmental concern would be designated where no significant conflicts exist.

Alternative B

Goal: Continue Existing Management (No Action)

Objectives:

1. Existing rangeland developments and current allocations of forage for livestock grazing would continue. A limited number of new rangeland developments would be constructed. BLM would continue to work with livestock operators to manage allotments in a cooperative manner.

2. Riparian area exclosures would be constructed on a limited basis. Existing developments would be maintained. Efforts to implement grazing management systems in riparian areas to improve soil, water, fish and wildlife habitat would continue.

3. Habitat for deer and elk would be managed in accordance with existing plans. Forage allocations on public lands would meet Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife management objective numbers for deer and elk.

4. A limited number of isolated tracts which are: (1) difficult and uneconomic to manage and are not needed by another agency; (2) no longer needed for the specific purpose for which they were acquired or for any other federal purpose; (3) provide greater benefits to the public in private ownership would continue to be sold. Other parcels of public land would be exchanged for lands with higher public value with emphasis on the Lower Deschutes and Lower John Day River areas.

Agricultural use of public lands would be authorized by permit or lease wherever no significant conflicts exist.

Limited acquisition of easements for public access would occur.

5. Adjust the sustained harvest level of timber on specific lands when appropriate to accommodate wildlife, existing fish habitat and riparian considerations. Commercial forest lands would be withdrawn from production only when restrictions and/or mitigation will not adequately protect other resources.

6. The public lands would remain open for exploration and development of mineral resources, rights of way and public purposes. Existing no surface occupancy stipulations for oil and gas exploration and development would be maintained in all sensitive areas.

7. The public lands would be open to off road vehicle use except in areas where significant damage is occurring.

Recreational mining opportunities would be recognized in some areas having moderate or high potential for placer gold or serni-precious stones.

8. Ongoing efforts to protect identified special management areas would continue. Cooperative management responsibilities with other agencies would also continue.

Alternative C

Goal: Emphasize natural values while accommodating commodity production.

Objectives:

1. Livestock grazing would be excluded from the highly scenic and intensively used recreation areas on public lands in the Lower Deschutes and Lower John Day River canyons. In addition, livestock exclusion would occur in allotments within crucial or important wildlife habitat areas.

2. Riparian areas located on public lands would be excluded from grazing by fencing where benefits exceed cost of fence construction. Areas where fencing is not feasible would be placed under management systems to maintain or achieve 60 percent of potential.

3. Management of wildlife habitat on public land for a diversity of game and non game species would receive special consideration in all areas. Forage allocations for deer and elk would meet Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife management objective numbers. Rangeland developments with principal benefits to wildlife would be implemented.

4. Emphasis would be placed on retention and expansion by exchange of public land holdings in: (1) areas of national significance, (2) where management is cost effective, or (3) where land is most appropriately managed in public ownership due to significant multiple resource values. Those public lands having no reasonable opportunity for exchange would be offerred for sale if they are: (1) difficult and uneconomic to manage and are not needed by another agency; (2) no longer needed for the specific purpose for which they were acquired or for any other federal purpose; (3) provide greater benefits to the public in private ownership.

Agricultural use of public lands would be authorized if no conflict with public values exist.

Acquisition of legal public access to large parcels of public land with high recreational values would be emphasized if it did not conflict with protection of natural values.

5. Alter the intensity of management on forest lands by adjusting timber harvest to provide for wildlife habitat diversity, riparian vegetation buffers, minimal permanent road construction and protection of fish habitat and scenic qualities. Commercial forest lands would be withdrawn from production when significant resource conflicts occur.

6. Exploration and development of mineral resources would be allowed where no significant conflicts with wildlife, riparian, or recreation values exist. Consideration would be given to placing restrictions on mineral exploration and development in areas with high public value.

7. Off road vehicle use would be restricted on public lands where significant damage was occurring to wildlife, riparian, ecological, or primitive recreation values. Those areas where ORV is not presently occurring, but would be damaged if ORV use was to occur, would also be limited or closed.

Some areas with high potential for placer gold, or semi-precious stones would be managed for recreational mining if no significant conflict with the protection of natural values exist.

8. Areas with identified outstanding natural values would be designated as research natural areas or areas of critical environmental concern. Other unique wildlife or ecological values would be maintained or enhanced.

Alternative D

Goal: Emphasize natural values.

Objectives:

1. Livestock grazing would be eliminated from the public lands in the planning area. No rangeland developments would be constructed except for exclusion fences. Only maintenance of exclusion fences would occur.

2. Riparian areas located on public lands would be excluded from grazing.

3. Wildlife habitat -- Same as Alternative C.

4. No public lands would be offered for sale. Exchanges to enhance wildlife, riparian, watershed and other natural values would be emphasized.

No agricultural use of public lands would be authorized.

No acquisition of legal public access would occur.

5. No regularly scheduled forest product sales would occur. Harvest of diseased or dying timber would occur if it did not conflict with wildlife habitat, scenic, riparian or fish habitat protection and enhancement.

6. Exploration and development of mineral resources would be allowed where no significant conflicts with wildlife, riparian, recreation or scenic values exist.

7. Public lands where significant damage was occurring, or would occur if off road vehicles were to use the area, would be limited or closed. Public lands with significant wildlife, riparian, ecological, primitive recreation or scenic values which would be adversely affected by off road vehicle use would be closed.

Recreational mining would not be managed.

8. Areas with outstanding natural and/or scenic values would be designated as research natural areas or areas of critical environmental concern. Remaining special management areas would be protected.

Resource Program Narratives

Grazing Management

There are 282,586 acres of public land leased for grazing by cattle and sheep in the Two Rivers Planning Area (Map 3). A total of 17,254 animal unit months (AUM's) of forage is allocated in 223 grazing allotments.

Early in 1982, the Bureau implemented a new grazing management policy that would help assign management priorities among grazing allotments. This approach is known as selective management.

All of the grazing allotments have been categorized into one of three basic groups under the selective management policy. The purpose of the categorization process is to classify allotments so management efforts and funding can be directed to the areas of greatest need. The three categories are "I" improve, "M" maintain, and "C" custodial. The category name refers to the management objective. The objective for the "I" category is to improve unsatisfactory conditions; for the "M" category, to maintain satisfactory conditions; and for the "C" category, to manage in a custodial manner to prevent deterioration of current resource conditions.

The primary criteria used in arriving at these categorizations were ecological condition, resource conflicts, economic feasibility of investments in range improvements and the land ownership pattern as it affects BLM manageability.

Table 4. summarizes the acreage, AUMs and number of allotments in each category.

Table 5. outlines grazing management direction for each alternative.

Table 4. Summary of Allotment Categorization.

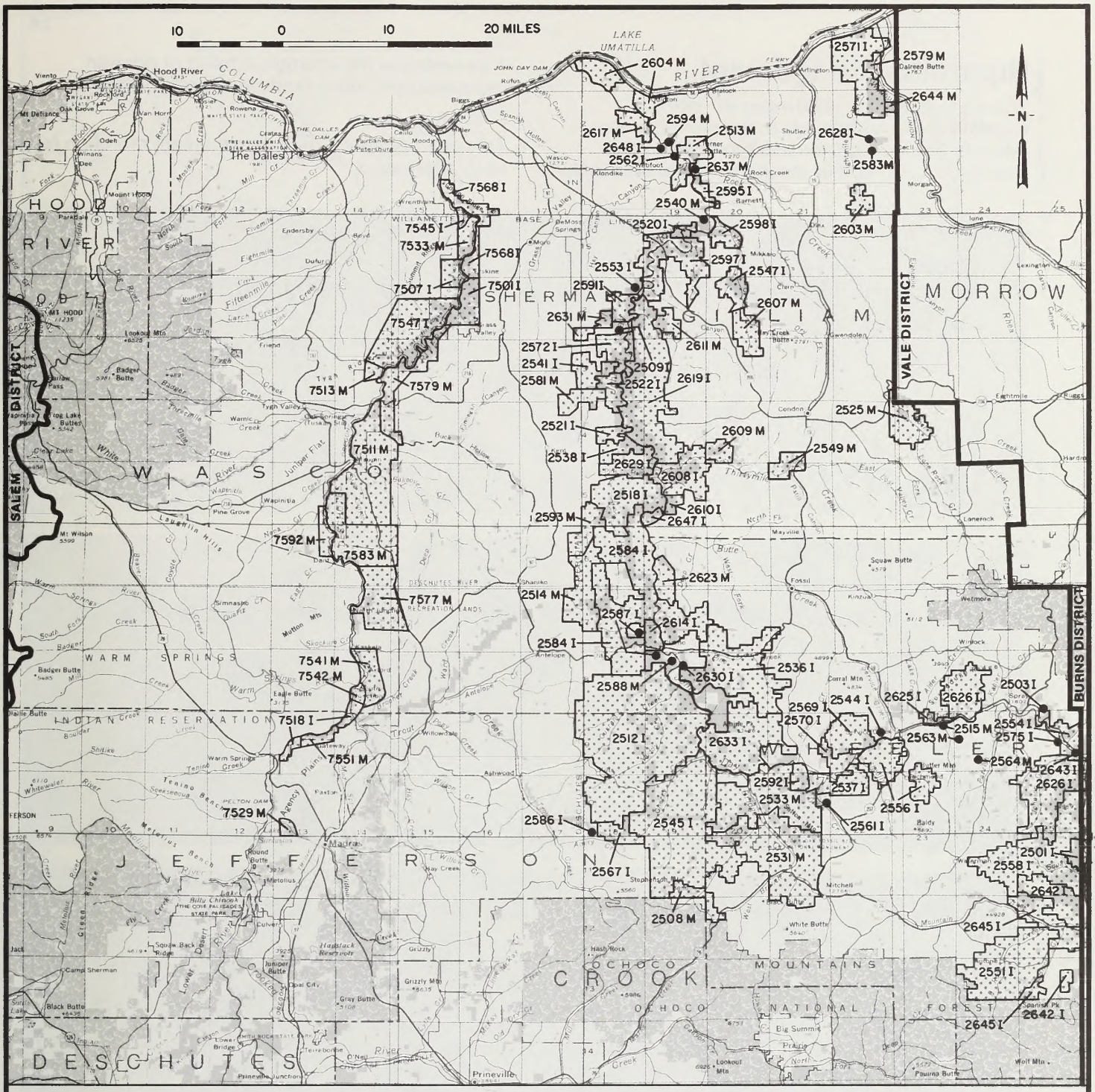
Category	Number of Allotments	Public Land Acres	Existing Authorized Use - AUM's
I - Improve	59	183,662	9,413
M - Maintain	37	47,512	3,285
C - Custodial	127	51,412	4,556
	223	**282,586**	**17,254**

Table 5: Grazing Management Direction by Alternative

	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Forage Available for Livestock	Increased by 1,445 AUM's to 18,699 AUM's.	Would remain at 17,254 AUM's.	Decreased by 5,467 AUM's to 11,787 AUM's.	Reduced to 0 AUM's.
Range Improvements	60 miles of management fence and 310 miles of riparian protection fence.	Limited management and riparian fencing.	340 miles of riparian protection fence.	1,589 miles of exclusion fence.
	8,240 acres of brush control thru prescribed burning.	0	0[1]	0
	13 spring developments	0	0[2]	0
Grazing Management	Intensive grazing management systems implemented.	Continue to work with operators and encourage improved grazing practices when needed.	Exclusion of livestock on public lands would occur on most of the public lands in the Lower Deschutes and John Day River Canyons, all riparian areas and all crucial, or important wildlife habitat areas.	No livestock grazing on public lands would be allowed.

[1]Table 12 notes that approximately 6,200 acres of brush control by burning have been proposed to enhance wildlife habitat. Some benefit to livestock could also occur.

[2]Table 12 notes that 8 spring developments have been proposed to benefit wildlife. Some benefit to livestock could also occur.



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Allotment Areas

2538 Allotment Number

I Improve Category

M Maintain Category

MAP 3
Grazing Allotments (I and M Category Only)

Riparian Management

There are a total of 1,280 acres of riparian vegetation on public lands in the planning area (Map 4). Table 6 summarizes the acreage and ecological condition of these riparian areas. Table 7 summarizes the ecological trend of riparian vegetation on public lands in the planning area.

Table 8 outlines riparian management direction for each alternative.

Table 6. Summary of Ecological Condition of Riparian Vegetation (Acres Public Land)

	Climax (Excellent)	Late Seral (Good)	Mid Seral (Fair)	Early Seral (Poor)	TOTAL
Deschutes Basin	207	174	116	92	589
John Day Basin	16	22	21	632	691
TOTAL	**223**	**196**	**137**	**724**	**1,280**

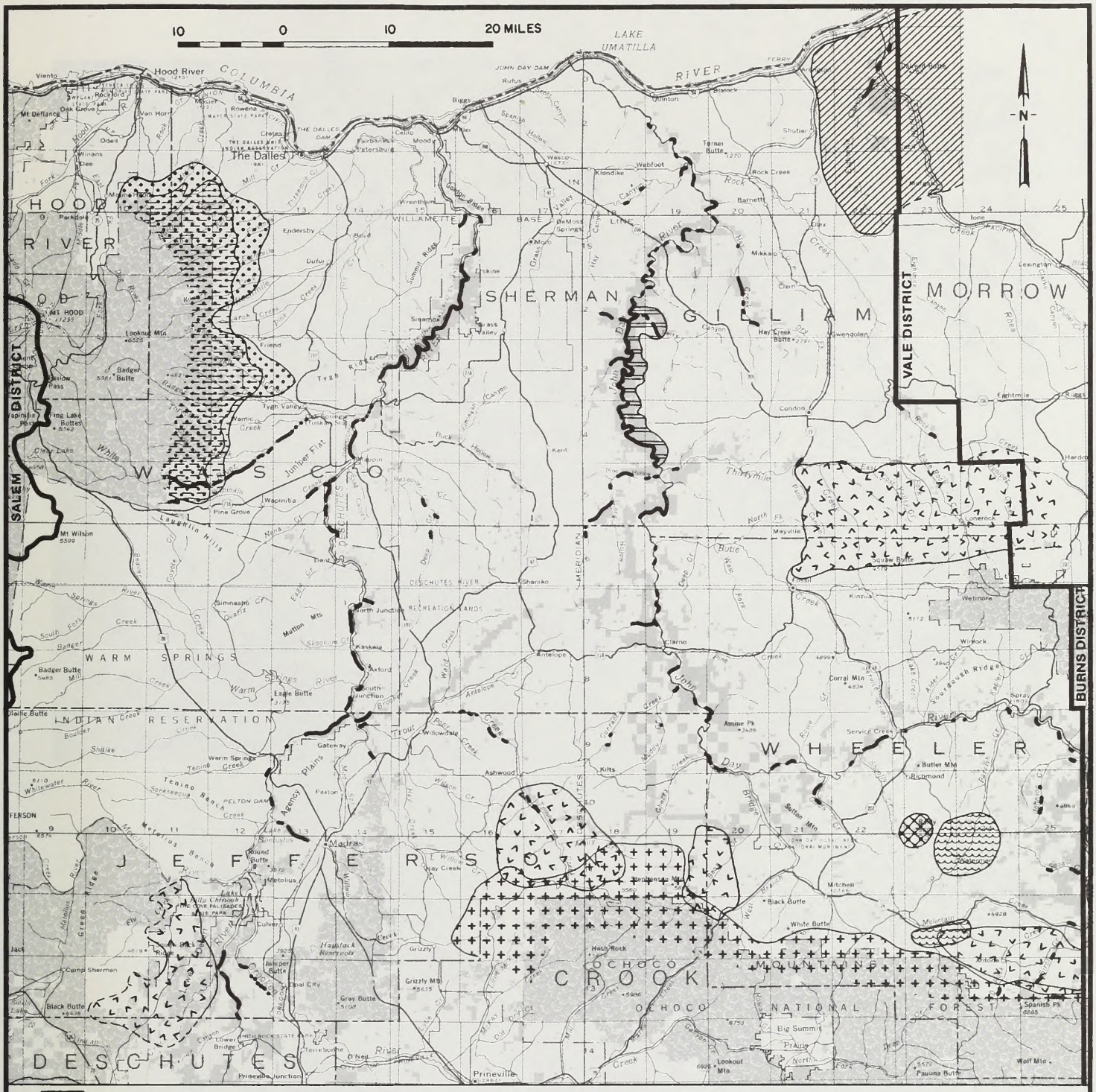
Table 7. Summary of Ecological Trend of Riparian Vegetation (Acres Public Land)

	Upward	Static	Downward	TOTAL
Deschutes Basin	200	375	14	589
John Day Basin	64	623	4	691
TOTAL	**264**	**998**	**18**	**1,280**

Table 8. Riparian Management Direction by Alternative.

Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Riparian areas would be managed to achieve or maintain 60% of potential on 1,280 acres. This would be accomplished through approximately 310 miles of protection fence and would exclude 840 acres. Grazing systems would be used in the remaining areas to achieve desired objectives.	Existing protection fence (82 miles) would be maintained. New riparian exclosures would be constructed as opportunities permitted. 1,035 acres of riparian vegetation would continue to be grazed by livestock.	New riparian exclosures would be constructed where multiple use benefits exceed cost of construction and maintenance. This would amount to 340 mile of protection fence which would exclude 950 acres of riparian vegetation. A good or excellent, channel stability rating would be achieved or maintained in these areas. Sixty percent of potential would be achieved or maintained in the remaining riparian areas through the use of grazing systems.	Achieve or maintain a good or excellent channel stability rating in all riparian areas. With total exclusion of of livestock grazing on all public lands in the planning area no additional riparian protection fence would be required.[1]

[1]If total exclusion of livestock grazing were only implemented in riparian areas, a total of 440 miles of riparian protection fence would be necessary.



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MAP 4
Riparian Areas and Wildlife Habitat

Wildlife Habitat Management

Habitat for 344 species of fish and wildlife exists on public lands in the planning area. Table 9 summarizes the acreage and type of wildlife habitats present. Map 4 shows the location of each of these habitats. There are 342 miles of streams supporting or having the potential for supporting fish. Table 10 summarizes fish habitat condition. Table 11 summarizes the trend of fish habitat on public lands in the planning area.

Table 9. Crucial and Important Wildlife Habitats

Species	Habitat Type	Public Land Acres
Mule Deer	Crucial Winter Range	10,200
Blacktail Deer	Winter Range	1,640
Rocky Mountain Elk	Year Long Range	560
	Winter Range	3,240
Roosevelt Elk	Winter Range	1,300
Pronghorn Antelope	Year Long Range	800
California Bighorn Sheep	Potential Range	14,000
Long Billed Curlew	Crucial Nesting Habitat	7,500
Wild Turkey	Year Long Range	1,360
Waterfowl	Nesting & Rearing Habitat	1,280
Raptors	Nesting Habitat	Rims & Ledges of Major Canyons

Table 10 Fish Habitat Condition (Miles on Public Land)

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	TOTAL
Deschutes Basin	73	17	46	4	140
John Day Basin	0	3	146	53	202
TOTAL	**73**	**20**	**192**	**57**	**342**

Table 11 Fish Habitat Trend (Miles on Public Land)

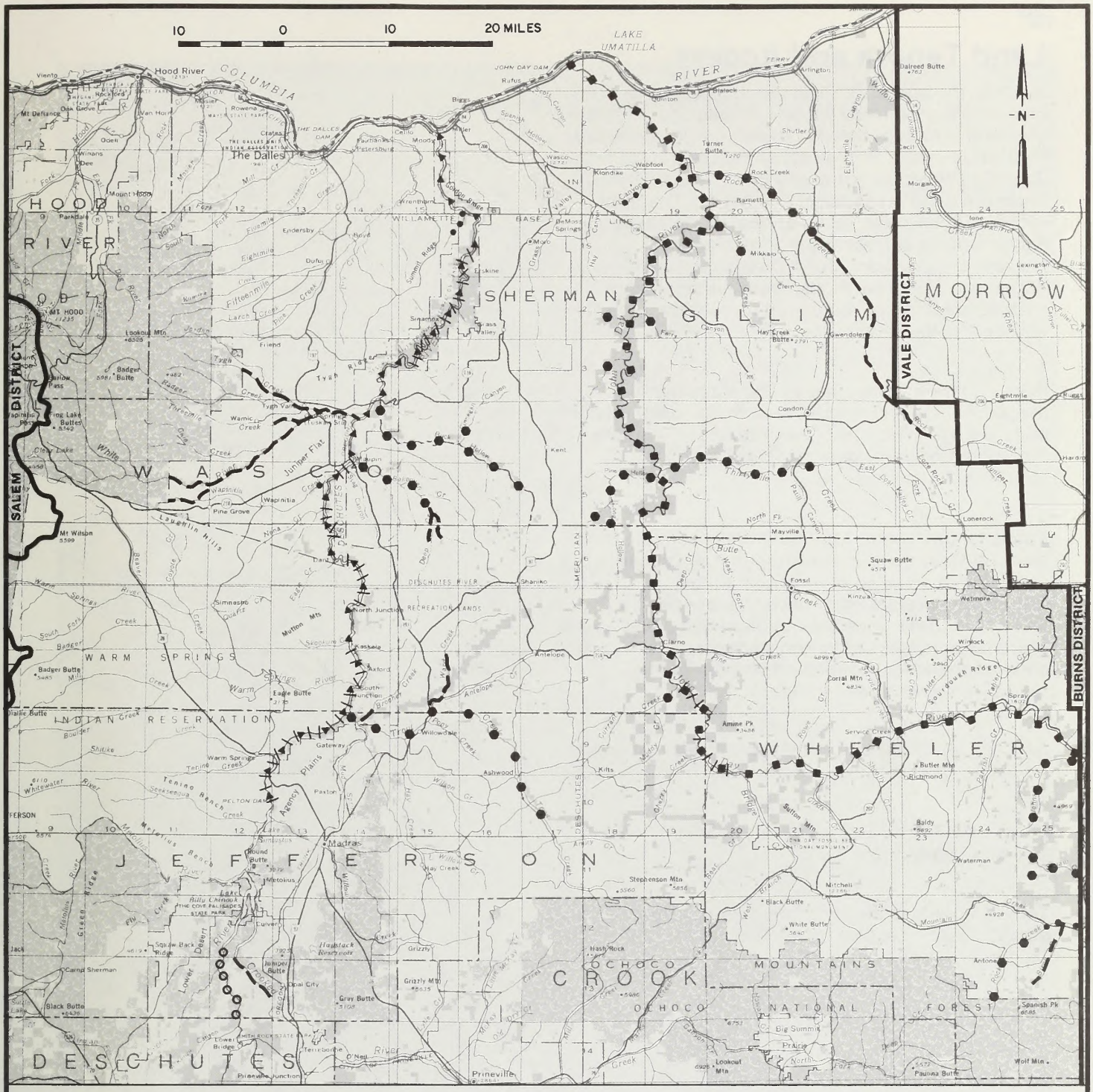
	Upward	Static	Downward	TOTAL
Deschutes Basin	10	126	4	140
John Day Basin	3	185	14	202
TOTAL	**13**	**311**	**18**	**342**

Forage needs for big game as recommended by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) have been met or exceeded in two of the nine big game management units within the planning area. The remaining seven units do not meet management objectives. Forage needs for deer and elk, as recommended by ODFW, would be provided under all alternatives. Achievement of this objective will require some land treatment (brush control), spring developments, and the use of livestock grazing systems.

Table 12. Wildlife Habitat Management Direction by Alternative.

Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Existing habitat management plans would be continued. Fish habitat would be indirectly improved through riparian fencing and improvement in riparian condition to 60 percent of potential. Wildlife habitat would be indirectly improved through spring development and prescribed burning for livestock grazing.	Existing habitat management plans would be continued.	Livestock use would be excluded on approximately 16,000 acres of deer and elk winter range and 7,500 acres of curlew nesting habitat if significant benefits to wildlife would be obtained. Fish habitat improvements would occur on 150 miles of streams through log and rock replacement, gabion development and tree/shrub plantings. Wildlife habitat improvement projects would include 8 spring developments, and 6,200 acres of brush control through burning.	All forage would be available for for wildlife. Fish and wildlife habitat improvement projects would be the same as Alternative C.

Table 12 outlines wildlife habitat management direction for each alternative.



● ● Steelhead and Rainbow Trout Spawning, Rearing and Holding Areas

•••• Steelhead Spawning Area

| | | | Chinook Spawning Area

--- Rainbow Trout

◂ ◂ ◂ Anadromous Fish, Trout and Warm Water Fish Immigration, Holding and Spawning Areas (Deschutes River)

■ ■ ■ Anadromous Fish and Warm Water Fish Immigration, Holding and Spawning Areas (John Day River)

○ ○ ○ Trout, Char, Salmon and Warm Water Species

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MAP 5
Fish Habitat

Land Tenure and Access

Much of the public lands in the planning area are scattered and isolated parcels. Public access in the planning area is generally limited. Large parcels of high value public land exists in the Deschutes and John Day River Canyons and other areas. These areas are denoted as zone 1 on Map 6. The public lands in these areas have national or statewide significance e.g. Deschutes River National Recreation Lands and John Day River State Scenic Waterway. These lands also possess significant wildlife, wilderness, recreation, vegetative, cultural and/or scenic values.

Public lands in zone 2 have potentially high resource values for timber, recreation, watershed and riparian. In addition, they could also contain threatened or endangered species, cultural resources and wildlife values.

Public lands in zone 3 are potentially suitable for disposal through sale, provided that significant recreational, wildlife, commercial timber, watershed, threatened or endangered species and/or cultural values are not identified. Land exchanges or transfer to another agency is encouraged when significantly higher public values can be obtained in return.

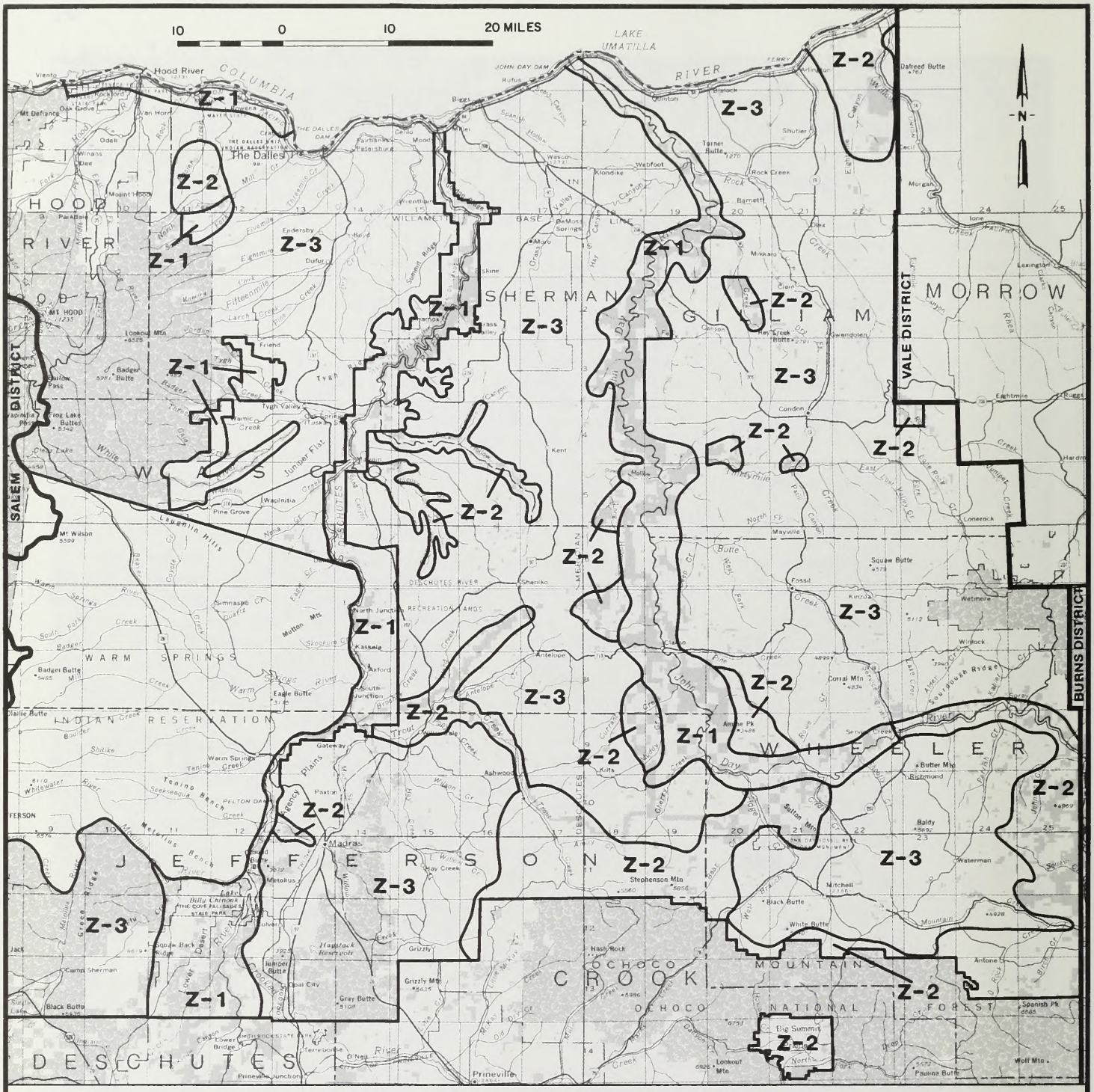
As many as 60 unauthorized agricultural use areas on public land have been identified.

There have been 1,080 acres of public land sold in Gilliam County since 1982.

Table 13 outlines the land tenure and access management direction for each alternative.

Table 13. Land Tenure and Access Management Direction by Alternative

	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Exchange, transfer or sale	Public lands in zone 1 would not be exchanged for lands in zones 2 and 3 on Map 6. Public lands in zones 1, 2 & 3 would be considered for transfer or exchange when lands with higher public value could be acquired. Public lands in zones 2 and 3 without exchange potential would be considered for sale.	Public lands in zones 2 and 3 on Map 6 would be considered for transfer or exchange. A limited number of tracts in zone 3 would be sold. Efforts to increase public land holdings or enhance public land values by exchange in zone 1 would continue, especially in the Lower Deschutes and Lower John Day River areas.	Public lands in zone 3 on Map 6 would be sold if no exchange opportunity existed. Public land in zones 1 and 2 would be exchanged to enhance wildlife, riparian, watershed, scenic and other natural values in zone 1.	No public lands would be sold. Exchanges in zones 1, 2 & 3 on map 6 would occur if wildlife, riparian, watershed, scenic and other natural values including primitive recreation opportunities were enhanced in zone 1 or 2.
Unauthorized Agricultural Use	Unauthorized agricultural use areas except those in areas of high public value would be sold. Unauthorized agricultural use in high public value areas (zone 1 on Map 6) and areas with agricultural potential which are not presently being used for agriculture would be authorized by permit or lease.	Unauthorized agricultural use of public lands would be reclaimed and allowed to revert back to a natural condition where significant conflicts with other resource values exist. The remainder would be authorized by permit or lease.	Unauthorized agricultural use of public lands in riparian areas, crucial or important wildlife habitats, or other public lands in zone 1 on Map 6 would not be permitted. These areas would be reclaimed and allowed to revert back to a natural condition. Unauthorized agricultural use of the remaining public lands in zones 2 and 3 would be authorized by permit or lease.	No agricultural permits or leases would be issued. Unauthorized agricultural use areas would be reclaimed and allowed to revert back to a natural condition.
Public access	Legal public access would be acquired into tracts of public land in zones 1 & 2 on Map 6 to maximize public use.	Limited legal public access into public lands in zone 1 on Map 6 would be acquired.	Legal public access to large tracts of public land in zone 1 on Map 6 would be acquired if public use would not significantly conflict with riparian wildlife, watershed and other natural values including primitive recreation opportunities.	No additional legal public access would be acquired to public lands.



Z-1 Areas currently identified as having high public resource values. Exchanges could be allowed to achieve management goals.

Z-2 Areas with potential for high public values. Exchanges and limited sales could be considered.

Z-3 Areas with lands which may be suitable for disposal through transfer to another agency, exchange or public sale.

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MAP 6
Land Tenure

Forest Management

There are 14 separate commercial forest areas totalling 12,299 acres of public land in the planning area (Map 7). Table 14 summarizes the forested acreages, acres set aside and the acreage remaining as timber production base.

The approximate harvest level from the available BLM timber production base is 1.5 million board feet (MMBF). There is little or no legal access to many of the forested areas.

Table 15 outlines the forest management direction for each alternative.

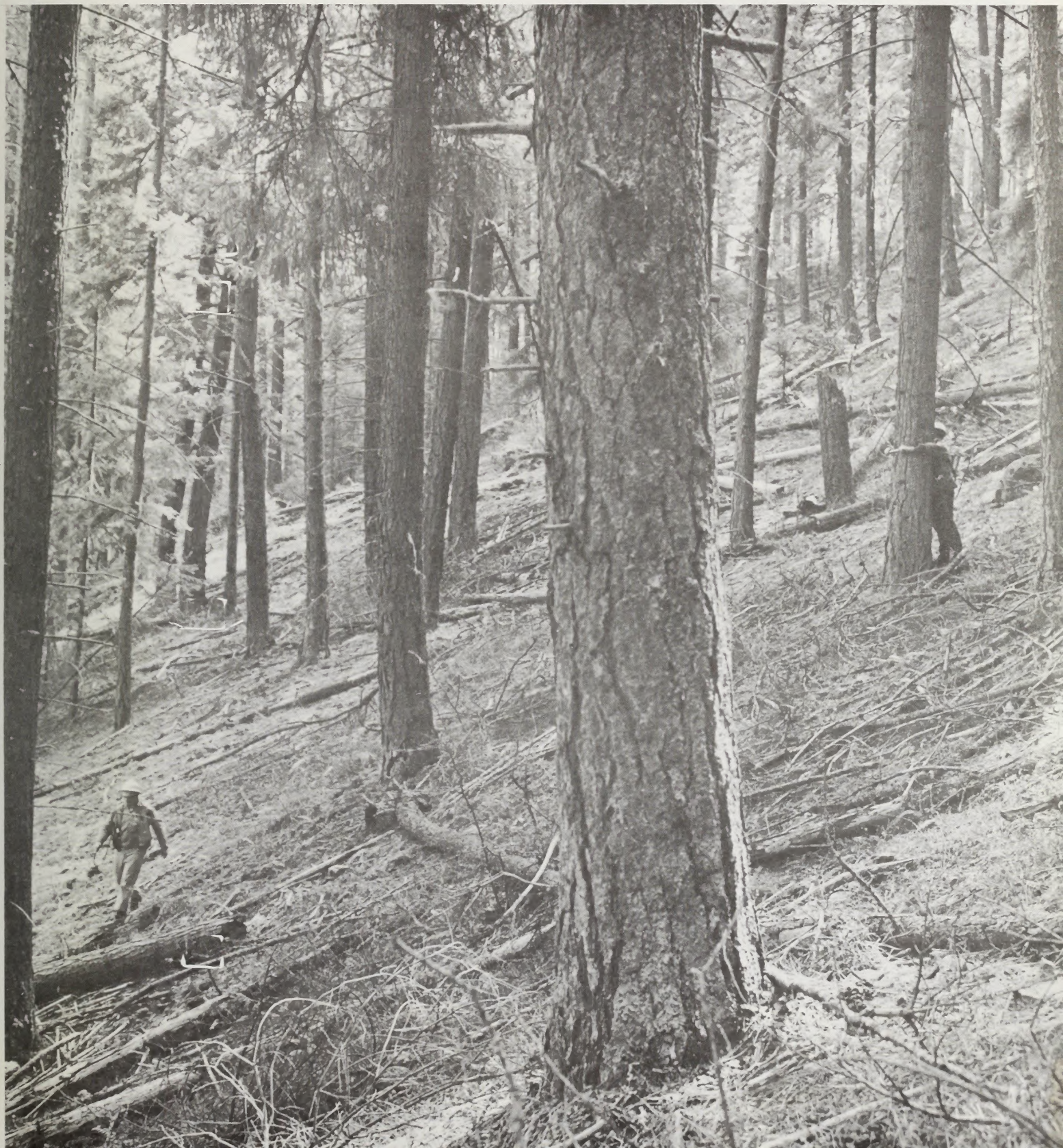


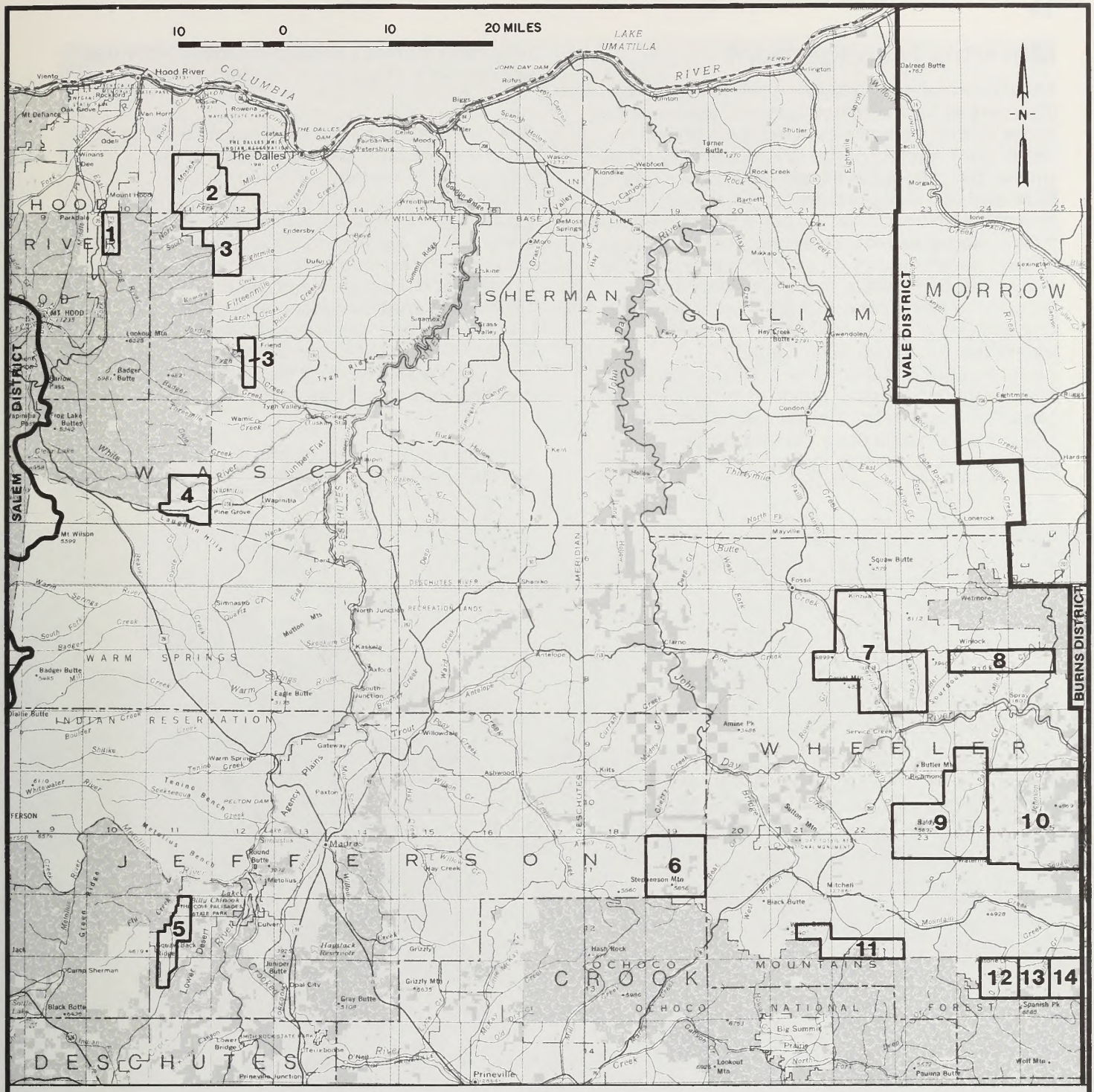
Table 14. Summary of Current Commercial Forest Land Allocations

Name	Total Forest Acres	Acres Set Aside for Other Multiple Uses	Timber Production Base
1. Hood River Valley	200	–	200
2. The Dalles Watershed	1,322	–	1,322
3. E. Mt. Hood N.F. Fringe Area	328	–	328
4. White River Area	1,111	938	173
5. N. Deschutes N.F. Fringe Area	280	–	280
6. Stephenson Mt. Area	1,326	–	1,326
7. Kinzua	1,044	–	1,044
8. Spray	282	–	282
9. Baldy Mountain	526	–	526
10. Johnson Heights	3,371	21	3,350
11. Mitchell Area	261	–	261
12. Rock Creek	568	19	549
13. Birch Creek	1,218	2	1,216
14. Day Creek	462	–	462
TOTAL	12,299	980	11,319

Table 15. Forest Management Direction by Alternative.

	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Timber Harvest	All commercial forest land would be available for timber harvest. Approximate annual harvest levels would be 2.0 MMBF[1] per year as a result of increased thinning and other silvicultural practices.	Harvest levels of timber would be adjusted to accommodate other significant resource values. Approximate annual harvest levels would be 1.5 MMBF per year.[1]	Approximate annual harvest levels would be 1.0 MMBF. Harvest restrictions or exclusions would be made to enhance wildlife and fish habitat, water quality, riparian, vegetation, and visual qualities.	Approximate annual harvest levels would be approximately .2 MMBF[1] and would only occur in high risk areas if no conflicts with wildlife, fish, riparian, watershed, visual and other natural values existed.
Precommercial and Commercial Thinning	Thin 300 acres annually to increase timber yields.	Thin stands within boundaries of sale areas where economically feasible.	Thinning would not occur unless conflicts with wildlife, riparian, watershed and other natural values could be mitigated.	Only thinning to improve wildlife habitat would occur.

[1]A new sustainable harvest level will be calculated as part of this planning effort and in conjunction with a forest inventory. The actual volume offered may be less than the full biological potential depending upon the number of acres allocated to other uses and the operational constraints built into this land use plan in order to meet multiple use objectives.



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See attachment for names and acres of commercial forest areas (1–14)

MAP 7

Commercial Forest Areas

Minerals Management

The entire planning area has good potential for discovery of oil and natural gas and essentially all of the federal mineral estate has been leased for exploration. Exploration is in a preliminary phase and no discoveries have been made. The current BLM land use plan provides for restrictions on minerals exploration on 137,000 acres (19% of the public mineral estate). These restrictions include no surface occupancy on approximately 132,000 acres. The areas where these restrictions apply include the "seen zones" of the Deschutes, John Day and Lower Crooked Rivers, The Dalles watershed, and White River Canyon. Approximately 5,000 acres of public land and reserved federal mineral estate in and around the Governor Tom McCall Preserve at Rowena and The Cove Palisades State Park have been precluded from mineral leasing. The no leasing restriction currently in place for these two areas will remain in effect under all alternatives.

The potential for hard rock minerals such as gold, silver and mercury is good in some areas, particularly in eastern Jefferson County. Exploration is currently occurring on private, public and reserved federal mineral estate. There are presently 432 mining claims located on public land and on reserved federal mineral estate. The location of mining claims under the Mining Law of 1872 would continue under all alternatives since it is a nondiscretionary action, however, development of the mineral resource would be controlled under existing regulations to varying degrees under each alternative.

Table 16 outlines the minerals management direction for each alternative.

Table 16. Minerals Management Direction by Alternative

	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Exploration and Devlopment of Mineral Resources on Public Land	The public lands would remain open for the exploration and development of mineral resources, rights-of-way and public purposes. No surface occupancy stipulations would apply to public lands within the 1/2 mile wide scenic waterways corridor in the Deschutes and John Day Canyons. The remaining no surface occupancy restrictions currently in place for oil and gas exploration and development would be removed. The number of acres where no surface occupancy restrictions would apply would be approximately 60,000 acres.	The public lands would remain open for exploration and development of mineral resources, rights-of-way and public purposes. Existing no surface occupancy stipulations for oil and gas exploration and development would be maintained in sensitive areas which total 132,000 acres.	Exploration and development of mineral resources would be allowed where no significant conflicts with wildlife riparian, or recreation values exist. Where conflicts exist, leasing would be allowed where extraction of the mineral resource was considered feasible under no surface occupancy stipulations.[1] If extraction of the mineral resource was not considered feasible under these conditions, the area would not be leased for oil and gas exploration and development. The number of acres where conflicts could exist total approximately 150,000 acres.	Exploration and development of mineral resources would be allowed where no significant conflicts with wildlife, riparian, recreation or scenic values exist.[1] Those areas where significant conflicts exist would be leased if the mineral resource was considered feasible to extract under a no surface occupancy stipulation. The number of acres where conflicts could exist total approximately 200,000 acres.
Federal Reserve Mineral Estate	The 383,000 acres of reserved federal mineral estate would be leased for oil and gas exploration and development.	Same as Alternative A.	The 383,000 acres of reserved federal mineral estate would be leased for oil and gas exploration and development where conflicts with existing uses of the surface estate could be mitigated.[1]	Same as Alternative C.
Mining Claims	BLM would work cooperatively with claimants in development of operational plans. Mineral development would be controlled, to the extent possible, to protect significant resource values.	Same as Alternative A.	BLM would work cooperatively with claimants in development of operational plans. Mineral development would be controlled, to the extent possible, if it conflicted with the protection of natural and scenic values.	Same as Alternative C.

[1]Restrictions or changes in lease stipulations proposed under this alternative would apply only to areas presently not leased or areas which are presently leased which will be renewed in the future.

Recreation Management

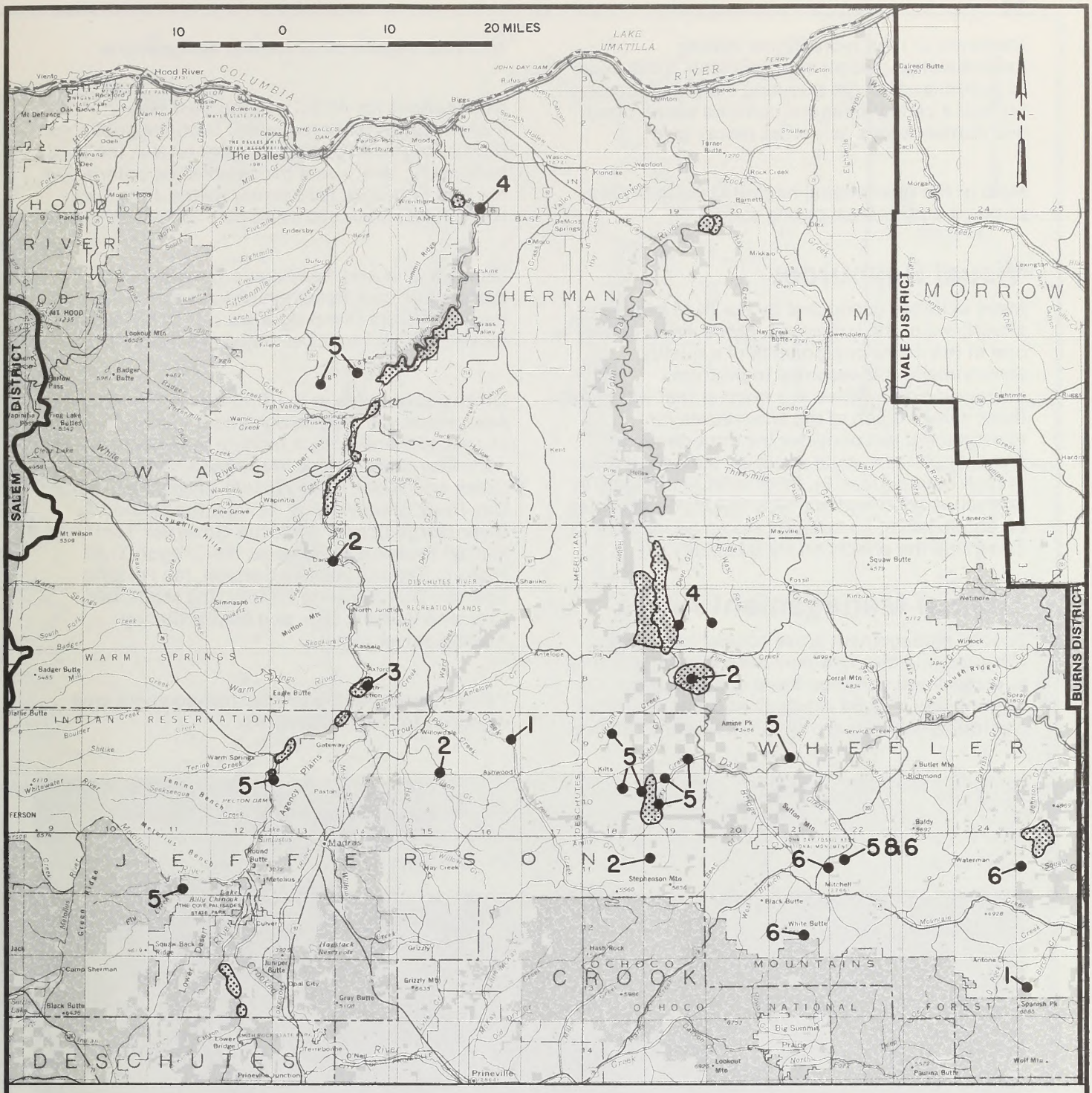
Off road vehicle (ORV) use on public lands and recreational mining (rockhounding) are the only recreation activites to be addressed in this RMP (Map 8). Other significant recreation activites such as hunting, etc. are related to public access discussed earlier in this document. Neither the wilderness study process, or recreation use of the Deschutes or John Day Rivers will be addressed in the Two Rivers RMP/EIS.

Table 17 outlines the recreation management direction for each alternative.

Off road vehicle use is generally low throughout the planning area. No organized events or activities occur on public lands. Off road vehicle use is generally limited to relatively small areas. Approximately 33,000 acres of public land in 18 separate areas presently receive low to moderate amounts of ORV use. This use ranges from recreationists in the Deschutes and John Day Canyons who pull off a constructed road to camp or gain access to a favorite fishing spot, to local residents who drive cross country for hunting or a variety of other reasons.

Table 17. Recreation Management Direction by Alternative

	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Off road vehicle use	The public lands would be designated as open to off road vehicle use, except in those areas where significant damage to soils and vegetation is resulting from ORV use. Approximately 10,000 acres of public land would be limited or closed to ORV use.	The public lands would be designated as open to off road vehicle use, except in those areas where significant damage to soils, vegetation, wildlife, or scenic values is resulting from ORV use. Approximately 20,000 acres of public land would be limited or closed to ORV use.	The public lands would be limited or closed to off road vehicle use where significant damage to soils, vegetation, wildlife, primitive recreation or scenic values is, or would occur. Limited or closed designations would be placed on approximately 150,000 acres of public land. Vehicle use would be confined to existing roads and designated trails in these areas.	The public lands would be closed to off road vehicle use where significant resource damage is, or would occur. Off road vehicle limitations or closures would also be implemented if significant conflicts with other uses of the public lands existed. This would apply to approximately 200,000 acres of public land. Vehicle use would be confined to existing roads in these areas.
Recreational Mining (Rockhounding)	Those areas having moderate to high potential for semiprecious stones or placer gold would be managed for public recreational mining. This could include the use of equipment to systematically expose new "beds" and reclaim old digging areas, publication of public informational brochures, signing, etc. Legal and/or physical access would be provided as appropriate.	Recreational mining opportunities would be recognized in land use decisions in areas having moderate or high potential for semiprecious stones or placer gold.	Areas with high potential for collectable minerals would be managed for recreational mining if no significant conflict with the protection of natural values exist. This could include the use of equipment to systematically expose new "beds" and reclaim old digging areas, publication of public informational brochures, etc. Legal and/or physical access would be provided as appropriate.	Recreational mining would not be managed for, or recognized in land use decsions on the public lands within the planning area.


10 0 10 20 MILES
N
LAKE UMATILLA
COLUMBIA RIVER
Hood River
The Dalles
HOOD RIVER
SHERMAN
GILLIAM
MORROW
VALE DISTRICT
SALEM DISTRICT
BURNS DISTRICT
WASCO
WARM SPRINGS INDIAN RESERVATION
WHEELER
JEFFERSON
CROOK
DESCHUTES
OCHOCO MOUNTAINS NATIONAL FOREST
Madras
Prineville
Condon
Fossil
Mitchell
Antelope
Shaniko
Maupin
Sisters
Bend
Redmond
Terrebonne
Prineville Junction
Warm Springs
Pine Grove
Wapinitia
Simnasho
Kashaia
Gateway
Metolius
Culver
Camp Sherman
Black Butte
Stephenson Mtn
Ashwood
Kilts
Richmond
Waterman
Spanish Pk
Wolf Mtn
Paulina Butte
Big Summit
Prairie
Lookout Mtn
Gray Butte
Grizzly Mtn
Haystack Reservoir
Billy Chinook Lake
Pelton Dam
Round Butte
Squaw Back Ridge
Juniper Butte
Coal City
Lower Bridge
Mt Defiance
Mt Hood
Mt Wilson
Frog Lake Buttes
Badger Butte
Eagle Butte
Dialle Butte
Amine Pk
Corral Mtn
Butler Mtp
Baldy
Black Butte
White Butte
Hash Rock
Antone Cr
Squaw Butte
Wetmore
Winock
Service Creek
Sutton Mtn
Tarner Butte
Hay Creek Butte
Dalreed Butte
Morgan
Lexington
Eightmile
Lanerock
Mayville
Kent
Wasco
Biggs
Rufus
Dufur
Tygh Valley
Wamic
Friend
Endersby
Erskine
Sherman
Grass Valley
Moro
Clem
Mikkalo
Dix
Barnett
Rock Creek
Klondike
Webfoot
Shutler
Blalock
Dufloch
Boyd
Tygh
Badger
Lookout Mtn
Barlow Pass
Clear Lake
Laughlin Hills
Mutton Mts
Simnasho
Warm Springs
Whitewater
Tenino
Seekseequa
Beaver
Green Ridge
Lower Desert
Crooked River
Ochoco Creek
Deschutes River
Trout Creek
Willowdale
Hay Creek
Grizzly
Ochoco Reservoir
Hash Rock
Big Summit
Prairie
North Fork
Lookout Mtn
Paulina Butte
Spanish Pk
Wolf Mtn
Stephenson Mtn
Black Butte
White Butte
Mitchell
Waterman
Baldy
Butler Mtp
Richmond
Corral Mtn
Amine Pk

Moderate or high recreational mining opportunities exist on approximately 6,000 acres of public lands in the planning area. Collectables include a variety of agate, petrified wood, plant and marine fossils as well as placer gold.

Most of the recreational mining areas lack either physical and/or legal public access.

Visual Resources

Many activites conducted by the BLM involve alterations of the landscape. Since visual quality is one of the major components of a quality environment, it is essential to perform management activities in a manner that will protect these values. Each of the alternatives for management will consider the importance of protecting these visual qualities, especially those of high quality (Map 9). Prior to BLM initiating or permitting any major surface disturbing activities on public lands, an analysis would be made to determine the effects on visual quality.

Special Management Areas

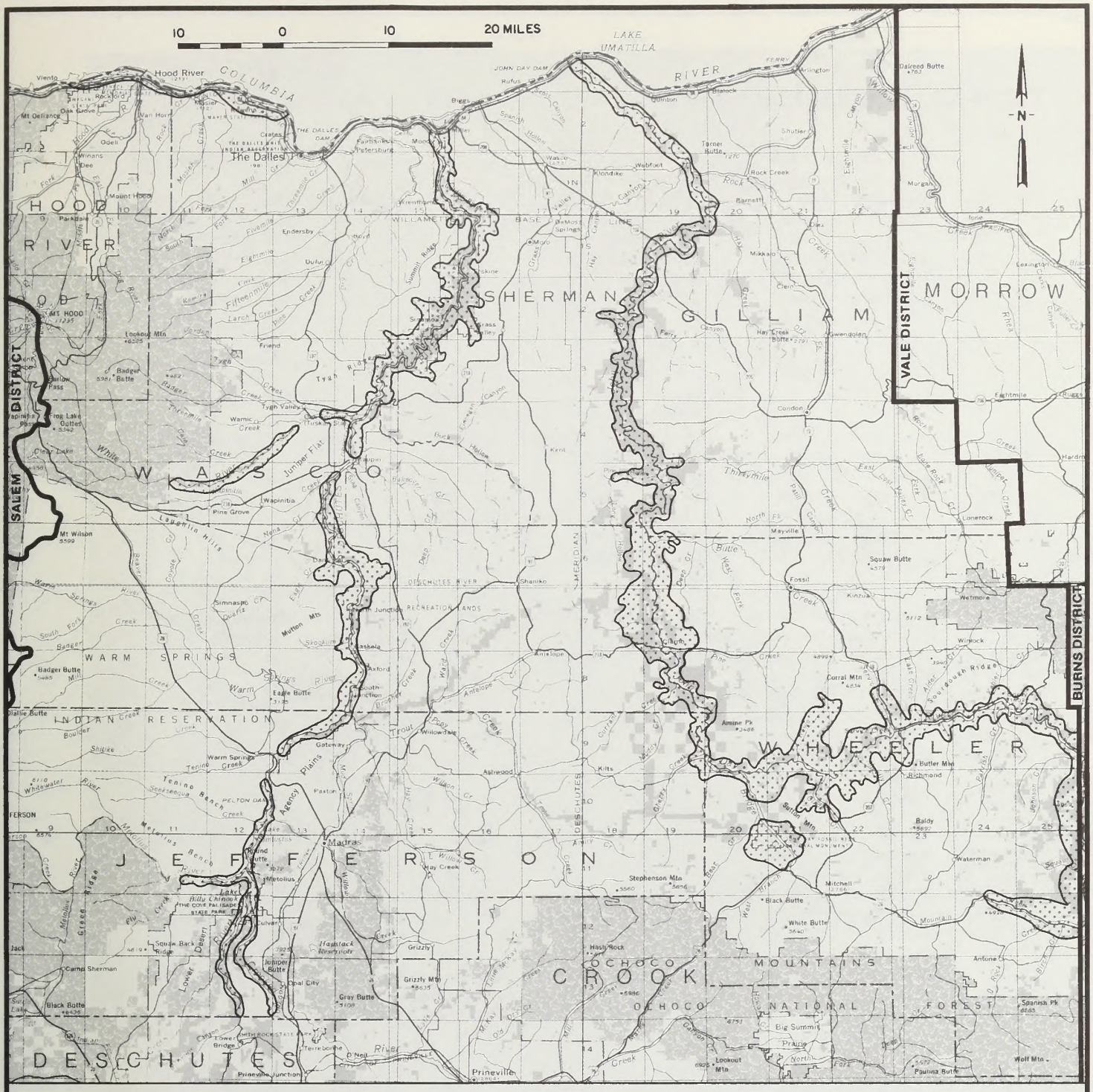
Special management areas consist of unique resource qualities and may need special attention to protect and enhance these qualities (Map 10). These areas may be set aside as areas of critical environmental concern (ACEC), research natural areas (RNA) and other special designations.

Nominations for ACEC's in the Two Rivers Planning Area were requested from the public and BLM's resource specialists. After review, the only nomination which met the established criteria was the Red Wall area (800 acres) on the John Day River. It has been classified as a "potential" ACEC.

One 230 acre area has been proposed for designation as a Research Natural Area (RNA) in the Two Rivers Planning Area. It is "The Island" located within The Cove Palisades State Park.

Other public lands in the Two Rivers Planning Area which will also be considered for some form of special management include the Deschutes and John Day State Scenic Waterways, the Willow Creek and White River Wildlife Areas, the John Day River State Wildlife Refuge, the Columbia River Gorge Scenic Area, the Governor Tom McCall Preserve at Rowena, the Oregon Trail Historic Site at Fourmile Canyon, the Historic Spanish Gulch Mining District, the McDonald Crossing Historic Site, and Macks Canyon Archeological Site.

Table 18 outlines the special management area direction for each alternative.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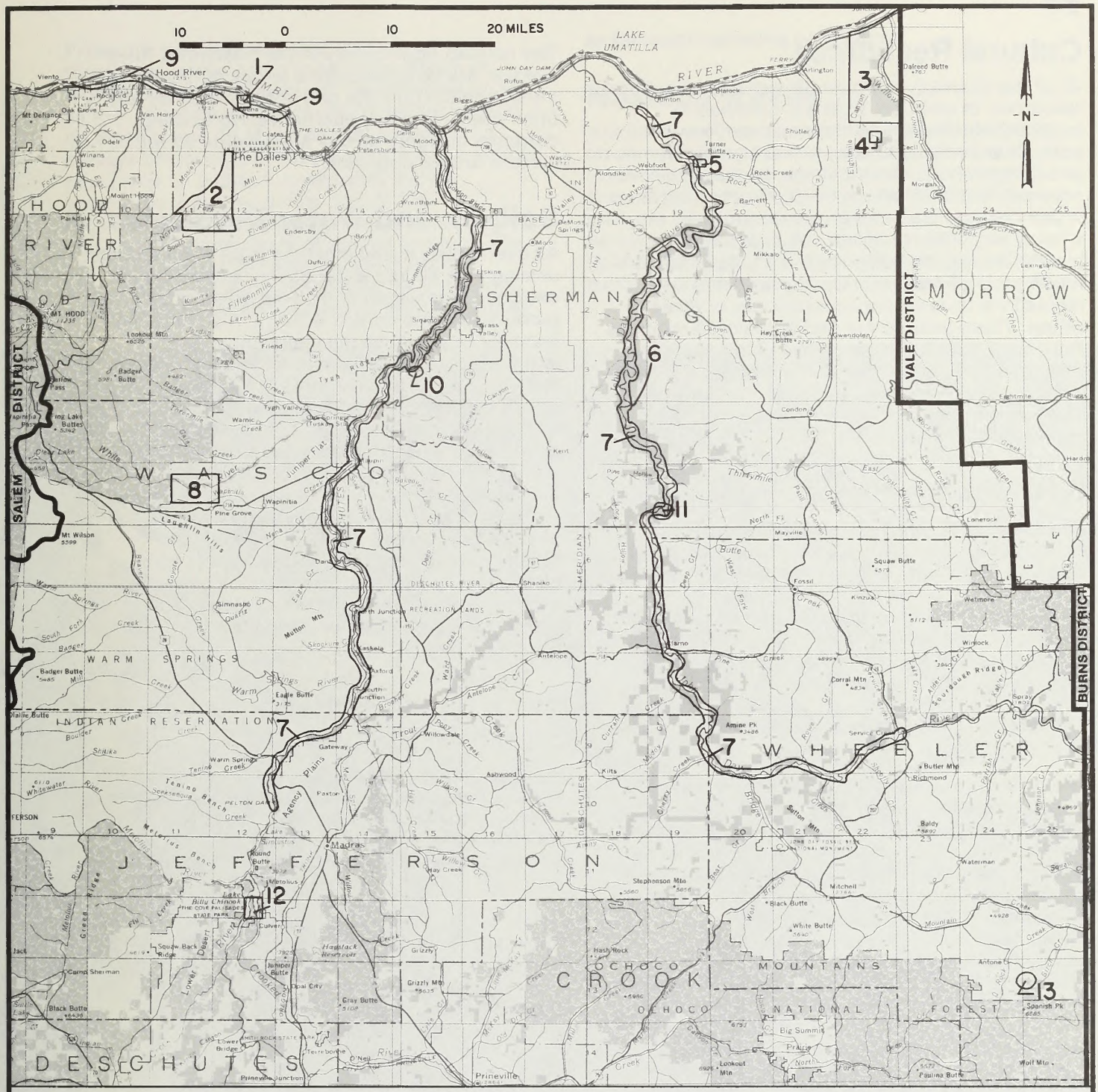
COLUMBIA RIVER
JOHN DAY DAM
THE DALLES DAM
Hood River
The Dalles
HOOD RIVER
SHERMAN
GILLIAM
MORROW
VALE DISTRICT
SALEM DISTRICT
BURNS DISTRICT
WASCO
WARM SPRINGS INDIAN RESERVATION
WHEELER
JEFFERSON
DESCHUTES
OCHOCO NATIONAL FOREST
OCHOCO MOUNTAINS
CROOK
Madras
Prineville
Mt Hood
Mt Wilson
Mt Defiance
Dalreed Butte
Squaw Butte
Corral Mtn
Amine Pk
Stephenson Mtn
Black Butte
White Butte
Grizzly Mtn
Gray Butte
Opal City
Camp Sherman
Lookout Mtn
Big Summit
Prineville Junction
Terrebonne
Paulina Butte
Wolf Mtn
Spanish Pk
Antone
Mitchell
Waterman
Richmond
Butler Mtn
Fossil
Mayville
Condon
Kent
Shaniko
Antelope
Madras
Metolius
Gateway
Warm Springs
Simnasho
Pine Grove
Wapinitia
Tygh Valley
Friend
Dufur
Endersby
Maupin
Sherman
Biggs
Rufus
Wasco
Moro
Grass Valley
Kingsley
Wamic
Kaskela
Axford
Eagle Butte
Badger Butte
Dallie Butte
Lookout Mtn
Mt Hood
Parkdale
Odell
Winans
Dee
Mount Hood
Oak Grove
Van Horn
Clatskanie
Mosier
Celilo
Dallesport
Petersburg
Fairbanks
Wrentham
Bakeoven
Shutler
Tamer Butte
Rock Creek
Barnett
Klondike
Webfoot
Mikkalo
Clem
Hay Creek Butte
Gwendolen
Lonerock
Wetmore
Winlock
Kinzua
Butler Mtn
Baldy
Black Butte
White Butte
Hash Rock
Grizzly
Hay Creek
Willowdale
Ashwood
Kilts
Paxton
Agency Plains
Round Butte
Lake Billy Chinook
THE COVE PALISADES STATE PARK
Culver
Squaw Back Ridge
Juniper Butte
Haystack Reservoir
Terrebonne
Lower Bridge
SMITH ROCK STATE PARK
Prineville
Pelton Dam
Warm Springs River
Deschutes River
Crooked River
Metolius River
Whitewater River
Seekseequa Creek
Tenino Bench
Lauremin Hills
Muton Mts
Sourbouer Ridge
Ochoco Creek
Mill Creek
Trout Creek
Antelope Creek
Shitike Creek
Badger Creek
Tygh Creek
Fifteenmile Creek
Eightmile Creek
Rock Creek
Thousand Creek
Bear Creek
Ferry Canyon
Deep Canyon
Butte Creek
Pine Creek
Squaw Creek
Willow Creek
Mud Creek
Lone Rock Creek
Hardman
Lexington
Morgan
Ione
Cecil
Blalock
Arlington
Quinton
Spanish Hollow

Table 18. Special Management Area Direction by Alternative

	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
The Island in the Cove Palisades State Park	Designate as a Research Natural area; an area of critical environmental concern under jurisdiction of the State of Oregon (170 acres).	Continue to cooperate with Oregon State Parks Department to maintain natural qualities.	Same as Alternative A.	Acquire 80 acres of USFS land and designate the entire area as a Research Natural Area; an area of critical environmental concern under BLM jurisdiction. (250 acres).
Deschutes & John Day River Canyons, including the Red Wall	Manage public lands consistent with the intent of the State Scenic Waterways Act. Designate Red Wall area as an ACEC (800 acres).	Continue to cooperate with the Oregon State Parks Department to manage the public lands consistent with the intent of the State Scenic Waterways Act.	Designate public lands within the scenic waterway boundaries of the Deschutes and John Day Rivers as an ACEC.	Designate public lands within the Deschutes and John Day River Canyons as an ACEC.
John Day River State Wildlife Refuge, Willow Creek and White River Wildlife Areas	Manage habitat on public lands consistent with big game objectives recommended by ODFW. Provide for non game habitat where no significant conflicts with commodity production for economic values occur.	Cooperate with ODFW in providing habitat for game and non game species.	Exclude incompatible uses from these areas. Meet forage and habitat needs for game and nongame species as recommended by ODFW.	Same as Alternative C.
The Dalles Watershed	Manage timber resources more intensively. This could include increased thinning and timber harvest.	Continue cooperative management agreement with the City of The Dalles for protection of The Dalles watershed.	Ensure full protection of watershed values by excluding all surface disturbing activities from the area.	Same as Alternative C.
The Gov. Tom McCall Preserve at Rowena, The Oregon Trail Historic Sites at Fourmile Canyon and McDonald, Historic Spanish Gulch Mining District, Macks Canyon Archeological site and the Columbia River Gorge Scenic Area.	Maintain and protect the unique qualities of these sites/areas.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A plus exclude incompatible uses from these areas.	Same as Alternative C plus the public lands within these areas would be designated as ACEC's if they were found to meet the criteria necessary to warrant designation.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Paulina Butte
Wolf Mtn
Lookout Mtn
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Stephenson Mtn
Black Butte
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Willowdale
Round Butte
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Culver
Opal City
Camp Sherman
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Lower Bridge
Terrebonne
Tetherow
Squaw Back Ridge
Juniper Butte
Haystack Reservoir
Lake Billy Chinook
THE COVE PALISADES STATE PARK
Mt Hood
Mt Defiance
Mt Wilson
Badger Butte
Ring Lake Buttes
Lookout Mtn
Parkdale
Mount Hood
Dee
Winans
Odell
Van Horn
Oak Grove
Viento
Rufus
Biggs
Wasco
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Grass Valley
Sherman
Tygh Valley
Maupin
Dufur
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Boyd
Friend
Warm Springs
Simnasho
Madras
Prineville
Prineville Junction
Lone Pine
Morgan
Lexington

Cultural Resources

All of the alternatives would protect known cultural resources. In addition, BLM will continue to conduct inventories and clearance surveys in advance of projects to ensure that significant archeological and historic resources are not adversely affected. Where conflicts occur between known cultural sites and proposed projects, or actions (e.g. timber harvest, road construction, mineral leases, land disposals, etc.), BLM will follow procedures prescribed by laws and regulations to avoid unnecessary loss of these values. These include the Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 and the Native American Religious Freedom Act of 1978. The entire planning area was ceded by the Warm Springs Tribes and contains sites and areas which may merit special management.

Fire Management

Fire is a natural factor in the development of eastern Oregon range and forest ecosystems. Attempts to exclude fire have frequently altered the vegetation to less favorable range or forest conditions. Fire can be used to improve wildlife habitat, provide for increased production of more palatable forage for livestock and wildlife or enhance commercial timber stands. Fire can also have some negative impacts, particularly if runoff from precipitation occurs and causes soil erosion.

The BLM is concerned with two basic types of fires: wildfire and prescribed fire. The main emphasis of the BLM fire management program in the Two Rivers Planning Area will continue to be prevention and suppression of wildfire to protect public values such as timber, vegetation, visual resources and adjacent private property. Prescribed fire would be used under each alternative to reach multiple use objectives. Alternative A introduces prescribed fires into the management system for the benefit of livestock and big game. Alternatives C and D utilize prescribed fire to enhance wildlife habitat. Prescribed fires will be coordinated with Oregon Department of Forestry, and adjacent landowners and carried out in accordance with approved fire management plans.

Utility Corridors

All alternatives will provide for designation of utility or transportation corridors on U.S. and state highways and county roads. Existing rights-of-way and proposed corridors identified by the Western Regional Corridor Study, which include the crossings of the Deschutes and John Day Rivers will be designated as utility corridors. A utility corridor has also been established to accommodate the existing and proposed Pacific Gas Transmission gas lines.

The railroad right-of-way in the Deschutes River Canyon will be considered a single purpose transportation corridor and not available for any other uses under any alternative. No existing corridors or rights-of-way are considered for closure or abandonment.

Soil, Air and Water Resources

All alternatives would meet the legal requirements dealing with air and water quality and would be designed to maintain or improve water quality, soil productivity, and control erosion. Also of prime importance would be the maintaining and improvement of riparian habitat and streambank stability. The upland recharge and soil alluvial aquifers along stream channels would help improve and sustain water of sufficient quality and quantity for other beneficial uses. While there is no high potential for increasing water yields, management actions can affect the timing of the yield. The onsite use of soil water along with the improved watershed values and soil alluvial aquifers would act like a "sponge". This sponge effect would help reduce peak runoff events and erosion. It would then enhance a slower and extended release of water during low flow periods of summer and early fall.

Threatened, Endangered or Sensitive Species

Suitable habitat may exist for peregrine falcons and Bald eagles in the Two Rivers Planning Area, however, no nest sites or birds have been found. No other threatened, endangered or sensitive wildlife species are known to occur in the planning area.

There are presently no known federal threatened or endangered plant species within the Two Rivers area. However, information obtained from the Oregon Natural Heritage Data Base supplemented with district observations shows 41 plant species on the BLM district sensitive list which are known to occur or are suspected of occurring on public land within the planning area. Of the total, nine are candidates for federal listing. One plant species is thought to have become extinct and will be a federal candidate if rediscovered. Of the remaining 31 plant species, 14 are either threatened, endangered, or extinct in Oregon but are more common elsewhere. Fourteen species are limited in abundance but are stable or more common elsewhere, and 3 species are under review and need to be monitored to determine their status.

Present known or suspected habitats of threatened, endangered or sensitive plants of federal and state concern will be protected under all four alternatives. To identify potential impacts on these plants, BLM will continue to conduct surveys before significant projects or other actions take place. In addition, inventories will be conducted to further define population boundaries, essential habitat, and the distribution and abundance of plants of special concern. The RMP/EIS will assume appropriate levels of protection or project modification for threatened, endangered or sensitive plants as design features or standard operating procedures.

Noxious Weeds

Infestations of noxious weeds are known to occur on some BLM lands. Chemical, biological, and mechanical methods of control will be proposed and subjected to site-specific environmental analyses prior to control. Control methods will not be considered unless the weeds are confined to BLM lands or efforts are coordinated with actions being taken on adjoining infested non-BLM lands.

Criteria to be Used in the Selection of a Preferred Alternative

Decision criteria are measures for evaluating alternatives and selecting, or developing, a composite preferred land use allocation alternative. The preferred alternative would be the alternative which best meets national guidance and best satisfies the following decision criteria:

Grazing

Meets the requirements of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), Public Rangelands Improvement Act, Taylor Grazing Act and the long-term objective of stabilizing the livestock industry and producing a sustained level of livestock forage to meet regional and national needs.

Wildlife and Fish

Protects, improves or develops fish spawning, rearing and migration habitat.

Protects or improves important wildlife habitat offering food, water and shelter during all seasons of the year.

Forestry

Establishes a sustainable allowable harvest level and proposed timber sale harvest level which assists in meeting local and regional needs. Protects other resource values through withdrawals or appropriate restrictions on management, harvest and operational practices.

Minerals

Allows exploration and development of mineral and energy resources consistent with BLM minerals policy, while protecting other significant resource values.

Lands

Allows adequate land allocations for communication sites, access development and designation of right-of-way corridors while protecting other significant resource values.

Provides land exchanges, transfer and sales which best serve public interests.

Recreation

Meets the demands for developed and dispersed recreation opportunities.

Visual Resources

Provides for maintaining the visual quality of the landscape in areas of high sensitivity.

Threatened, Endangered or Sensitive Species

Protects, maintains, or enhances habitat of threatened, endangered or sensitive plant or animal species.

Special Management Areas

Provides for scientific and educational study through such programs as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and Research Natural Areas.

Cultural Resources

Protects cultural resources in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

Soil, Water and Air Resources

Protects and improves the quality of the soil, water, and air resources along with watershed values; provides for compliance with applicable pollution control laws; and coordinates with other related resources and programs of state, local, and federal agencies.

Provides for watershed rehabilitation to those areas where deterioration of watershed values due to accelerated erosion and runoff has been significant.

Socioeconomic Conditions

Maintains or expands the total level of local employment and personal earnings which are dependent on raw materials, recreation and other use opportunities available on lands administered by BLM.

Maintains or expands the contributions of BLM's programs to the local public revenues.

Consistency with State, Local and Other Federal Natural Resource Plans, Programs and Policies

Demonstrates consistency with statewide planning goals (Land Conservation and Development Commission), local comprehensive plans, and officially approved local or tribal resource related plans, programs and policies.

Demonstrates consistency with other federal agencies' officially approved resource related plans, programs and policies (provides coordinated approaches to regional issues and projects or proposals crossing administrative lines).

GLOSSARY

Animal Unit Month (AUM) — A standardized measurement of the amount of forage required to sustain one cow with one calf, or their equivalent for one month (800 pounds of forage).

Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) — Places within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historical, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources, or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

Commercial Forest Lands — Forest land that is now producing, or is capable of producing, at least 20 cubic feet per acre per year of commercial tree species.

Commodity Resources — Goods or products of economic use or value.

Crucial Wildlife Habitat — Parts of the habitat necessary to sustain a wildlife population at critical periods of its life cycle. This is often a limiting factor on populations such as breeding habitat, winter habitat etc.

Cultural Resources — Remnants of prehistoric or historic cultures that are fragile and nonrenewable (archeological and historic sites).

Diversity — A measure of the variety of species and habitats in an area that take into account the relative abundance of each species or habitat.

Endangered Species — A plant or animal species whose prospects for survival or reproduction are in immediate danger as designated by the Secretary of the Interior and as further defined by the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) — A formal document to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency that considers significant environmental impacts expected from implementation of federal actions.

Forage — All browse and herbaceous plants that are available to grazing animals including wildlife and domestic livestock.

Habitat — Type of environment in which certain plants or animals occur.

Issue — A subject or question of widespread public discussion or interest regarding management of public lands within the Prineville District and identified through public participation.

Noxious Weeds — A weed specified by law as being especially undesirable, troublesome and difficult to control.

Off Road Vehicle (ORV) — Any motorized vehicle capable of, or designed for, travel on or immediately over land, water, or other natural terrain, excluding: 1. any nonamphibious registered motorboat, 2. emergency vehicles, 3. vehicles in official use.

Planning Area — A geographic area within the Prineville BLM District used for assembling resource inventory data.

Prescribed Fire — A planned burning of live or dead vegetation under favorable conditions which would achieve desired management objectives.

Public Lands — Any land and interest in land owned by the United States Government and administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the Bureau of Land Management. May include public domain or acquired lands in any combination.

Raptors — Bird species with sharp talons and strongly curved beaks which have adapted to seize prey, e.g. eagles, hawks, etc.

Research Natural Areas — Areas established and maintained for research and education. The general public may be excluded or restricted where necessary to protect studies or preserve research natural areas. Lands may have: (1) Typical or unusual faunistic or floristic types, associations, or other biotic phenomena, or (2) Characteristic or outstanding geologic, pedologic, or aquatic features or processes.

Reserved Federal Mineral Estate — Property on which the federal government has retained ownership of the minerals (and the right to remove the minerals) while transferring the surface estate into private or other ownership.

Riparian Area — A terrestrial site influenced by perennial and intermittent waters which in combination with the water table level, soils and vegetation create a microclimate apart from that which exists on the upland terrestrial sites. These areas are found adjacent to rivers, streams, lakes, reservoirs, ponds, marshes, seeps, springs, bogs and wet meadows.

Sensitive Species — Plant or animal species not yet officially listed, but which are undergoing a status review or are proposed for listing according to a federal register notice published by the Secretary of Interior, or Secretary of Commerce, or according to comparable state documents published by state officials.

Special Management Areas — See Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and Research Natural Areas.

Sustainable Annual Harvest — The yield a forest can produce continuously from a given level of management.

Threatened Species — A plant or animal species the Secretary of Interior has determined to be endangered in the foreseeable future throughout all or most of its range.

Watershed — Lands which are enclosed by a continuous hydrologic drainage divide and located upslope from a specified point on a stream.

Watershed Values — Soil productivity and stability and the storage, yield, quality, and quantity of surface and subsurface waters.

Wilderness Study Area (WSA) — A roadless area that has been inventoried and found to be wilderness in character, having few human developments and providing opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation, as described in Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

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